UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

HYDERABAD

IN

1890 AND 1891.

COMPRISING ALL THE LETTERS

ON

HYDERABAD AFFAIRS WRITTEN TO THE MADRAS

"HINDU"

BY ITS HYDERABAD CORRESPONDENT

DURING

1890 AND 1891.

Bangalore:

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HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

DEDICATED

TO

THE PEOPLE OF HYDERABAD

IN WHOSE INTERESTS

THE LETTERS COMPRISING THIS VOLUME WERE WRITTEN.

The Hyderabad Correspondent.

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PREFACE.

The appearance of this book is due to the suggestion of some friends who were kind enough to think, and had influence enough to make me believe, that the letters I had written to the Madras *Hindu* in my capacity of its Hyderabad Correspondent during 1890 and 1891 deserved to be rescued from the oblivion that is the fate of newspaper contributions generally. When this fact has been stated, there is little, I think, that remains to be added by way of bespeaking the indulgence of the reader for any blemishes in the manner in which facts are put forth, popular feeling is portrayed and honest comments are fearlessly made in the following pages.

I have omitted a few paragraphs that could be of momentary interest and importance only, and corrected a few insignificant errors here and there. In all other respects the letters appear in this volume exactly as they did in the columns of the Madras *Hindu*.

The Hyderabad Correspondent.

1st November 1892.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NAWAB MUSHTAK HUSAIN INTESAR JUNG BAHADUR.

I was recently in Hyderabad. I found that the unpopularity of the men in power had not, during my absence of about three months from the place, lessened a whit—but on the other hand it had considerably increased. Almost every man of intelligence that I came across, had something or other to say against the policy of the Government—condemned, in no measured terms, the influences at work, the manner in which this Rajah's claims had been shelved and that Jagheerdhar sent to rack and ruin, this honest Hindu official had been brought into trouble and that Moslem immigrant had been pitchforked into a high position and so on, and so on. And I was naturally curious to know what the powers-that-be had to say in their own behalves. So, according to an appointment previously arranged for, I repaired on Sunday last at 11 A. M., to the residence of the Nawab Mushtak Husain Intesar Jung Bahadur—Revenue Secretary to the Nizam's Government and chief of the party in the ascendant, or the Minister *de facto* as he is known among most people in Hyderabad—and presented my card. Ushered into a hall furnished in perfect *Moglai* style, a relative of the Nawab's informed me that the "Maulvie Shaib" had been suddenly summoned by the "Nawab Sahib" (*i. e.* the Minister) and he had sent a telephonic message a few minutes previously to the effect that he would be back "presently" to see me. I took a seat and waited. About 10 minutes afterwards a carriage drove in—and almost immediately I found myself in the presence of a man of medium height and middle age, bearded rather luxuriantly, in the typical Hyderabadee costume; and he was no other than the Nawab Intesar Jung Bahadur. He advanced and shook hands with me, and taking a seat closeby, launched into apologies for

being unpunctual. Acknowledging his great consideration for me in the usual oriental terms, I proceeded to business. What transpired, I shall note down below *pro bono publico.*

"I have heard a good deal" I began, "about men in power here and their measures, and I am here to find out, if possible, from you how far what I have heard is true."

"I am thankful to you" he replied, "for taking the trouble of coming all the way here to find out the truth. I shall be glad to answer, as well as I could, any questions you may wish to put me."

"There is an impression abroad that the Administration is individually, as well as in a body, opposed to the Hindu interests. Has this impression any foundation in fact?"

"No. As for myself, I have always favoured the Hindus. (And pointing out to me a paragraph in the report submitted by him, to the late Nawab Muneer-ul-Mulk Bahadur, as Subedhar of the Eastern Division, in which reference is made to the placing of the temple of *Jeedkul* on a footing of equality with Mahomedan shrines in respect of Government grant, he continued.) This paragraph will show you whether I am opposed to the Hindu interests or not."

"This pragraph" I put in, "shows you favoured the Hindus about 3 years ago, that is, when you had no power; and it does not give one an idea as to whether now that you are in power, you continue to be what you were then."

"Since coming into power I have been instrumental in the Government granting *inam* lands to many Hindus in the District. And the charge of antagonism to Hindus as applied to the Government is groundless, inasmuch as only recently a Hindu has been made a Judge of the Small Causes Court and another Hindu promoted to be Assistant Judicial Commissioner of a whole District."

"You have mentioned only two instances" I said, "in which Hindus have come into prominence. But I could mention several instances of noble and time-honoured Hindu families reduced to a pitiable state under the present regime. The Chandu Lal family is nowhere in the State now—the living representative of it, Rajah Kishen Pershad, has not even the wherewithal to live up to his social position. The Rajah of Anagondy is only a Rajah in name. Rajah Rai Rayan is a beggar now compared with what he was."

"Raja Kishen Pershad" the Nawab Intesar Jung replied, "could have no reasonable complaints to prefer against those in power. The Peishkarship has been a sinecure for the last 35 years—ever since Secretaryships were created by the first Salar Jung. And if Sir Asmanjah tries to reduce the emoluments of the sinecure, is he to be blamed? Is it not the object, nay the bounden duty, of all enlightened Governments to reduce useless expenditure as far as possible? Had the reins of Government been in the hands of a modern graduate or a man like Sir T. Madhava Rao instead of in the hands of a noblemen of Sir Asmanjah's stamp, the Peishkarship would have gone clean out of existence long since. Sir Asmanjah is blamed for doing what anybody else in his position would consider an act of extreme kindness or consideration."

"What has the Minister to do with the Peishkar? The Peishkar has ever been independent of, and not inferior to, the minister—is it not?"

"No" replied the Nawab; "the office of Peishkar has always been subordinate to that of minister."

"I have read somewhere that the way in which Nasir-ud-Dowlah, the grandfather of the present Nizam, installed Rajah Narender Pershad and Sir Salar Jung I in the offices of Peishkar and Minister, at the Durbar held on the 31st May 1853, attests to the equality of the two positions. Nasir-ud-Dowlah, it is said, took the turban and jewels pertaining to either of the

offices in each hand and decorated therewith Raja Narendar and Salar Jung respectively at one and the same time."

"This is not true" replied the Nawab. "The very fact of the Peishkar having always given *nuzur* to the Minister clearly shows that the Peishkar has ever been under the Minister and not equal to or independent of him. Now about the Rajah of Anagondy: He owes all that he has to Sir Asmanjah. A little before Sir Asmanjah became Prime Minister, Mr. Dunlop, at the head of a Committee appointed to inquire into the Raja's affairs, had decided that his estate should be confiscated. This decision would have been carried into effect if only Sir Asmanjah had taken charge of the administration a month later than he did. Sir Asmanjah showed respect to what the Rajah of Anagondy at one time was, when he used his influence and prevented the above decision from being carried out. So then, you see the Rajah is under obligations to the Minister and has no grounds for any legitimate complaint against him.

"So then, you think" I asked, "that if these people have suffered they have suffered but rightly?"

"All that I can say is that the Government's action with regard to these, has been suggested not by any ill-will but by considerations of expediency."

"While holding office in the Aurangabad District, some years ago" I said, "you wrote to the Government to say that these were among the few families in the State which represented oases in a vast waste, and as such they must be "kept up" at any cost. Now that you are in power, you look on unconcerned while they are drifting downwards to obscurity if not to ruin. How is this?"

After some hesitation the Nawab said, "*Then* I could express my personal views freely. Now that I am confidential Secretary to the Government, I could not do so. People would do well to recognise where power is centered. It is no use allowing false notions of dignity and thoughts of a power and a

glory that were, to come in the way of our abiding by its prudential decisions; we should only be the losers for so doing."

"It is said and believd" I said, "that Sir Asmanjah does nothing by himself, that he is solely led by you in every matter—that you are the minister *de facto*. Is this true?"

"It must be admitted that Sir Asmanjah is not a graduate of a University. And it is fortunate that he is not a graduate—otherwise there would have been a sweeping off of all traditions and old associations and families. Sir Asmanjah is where he is, not so much by right of his intelligence and education as by that of being one of the leading noblemen in the State. As such, one cannot expect him to understand, judge and decide everything by himself—and he must needs trust somebody under him."

"Is it true," I asked then, "that a committee has been appointed to find out whether, from a religious point of view, it is advisable for the Government to send Hindu students to England for being educated there?"

"Yes. In accordance with a resolution of the Government published in the *Jareeda* (Government Gazette) a committee has been appointed of Raja Shivaraj Bahadur, Bansi Raja, Motilal, Desikachari and others—to find out whether the rules and codes that guide the Hindu Society, allow of Hindus going to England."

"The Government," I said, "has been unfortunate in the men it has selected to be its advisers on this important subject. In the first place, the men you have just now named, are not by education, or association fit to undertake the consideration of the subject of Sea-voyage. In the second place, they are men known to entertain views adverse to Hindus going to England. So then, does not the appointment of these men on the Committee amount to taking away with the one hand what has been given with the other—nullifying the promises held out by the notification in the *Jareeda*?"

"The Nawab Imad-ud-Dowlah, Mr. Hodson and myself where on the Committee appointed to select members for the Hindu Committee. After a deal of discussion we chose Rajah Shiva Raj and others as being men in whom the Hindu community has confidence."

"You have not made a happy selection" said I. "These are men whose opinions or decisions on social and religious matters few Hindus would care to accept or be guided by. I say this—after having sounded many intelligent and educated Hindus on the point."

"If you will give me the names of some of those, who, you think, are worthy of being on the Committee, I shall feel very much obliged to you," said the Nawab.

"I shall send you a list of the names of the men whom the Government might profitably consult with regard to the matter."

The Nawab then assured me: "The decisions of the Committee are not final. It has simply to receive the applications for scholarships and transmit them to the Government with such remarks as it might deem fit to offer. The Government reserves to itself the right to act up to or set aside the conclusions of the Committee."

Then our talk turned upon several other matters which I have not the time to refer to now.

I bade the Nawab Intesar Jung good-bye at about half-past one in the afternoon, He was very kind and civil throughout the interview, and his manner impressed me as being that of one who is as ready and willing to be advised as to advise.

GULBURGA, *3rd September, 1890.*

GULBARGA, *11th September 1890.*

Speculation is rife with regard to the question of the four Government Scholarships founded ostensibly for the benefit of Hyderabadee students desirous of prosecuting their studies in England. I have heard that the Scholarships are meant for four Mahomedan youths, all related to one or the other of the leading officials and that the Hindu Committee and the notice of a competitive test in the *Jareeda* are all make-believes having for their object the providing against the hue and cry of the newspaper *wallahs*, and the hoodwinking of the people. And I have even been furnished with the names of these fortunate youths, by some kind people. I shall wait to see how far this hearsay is true. In the meanwhile, it might interest your readers to know, that writing to the Nawab Intesar Jung Bahadoor,—subsequent to my sending you the account of the interview—*anent* this affair* I said, "The Government might profitably consult on the matter Hindus of light and leading like Dewan Bahadoor Raghunath Rao of Madras, Messrs Telang and Ranade of Bombay, and Dr. Rajandra Lal Mitra of Calcutta. Nothing less than a consultation of this sort will, I can assure you, satisfy the public, and divest the question of the character of a "hole and corner affair" that many are inclined to give it."

In a letter on "Hyderabad affairs" from a correspondent which appeared in your issue of the 3rd instant, it was stated: "A curious order, I hear, was promulgated by the Government just before the commencement of the Moharrum. It is that during the Moharrum no music should be played in Hindu houses, not even bells should be rung." I was in Hyderabad during the Moharrum and I did not hear of any such order, or notice any thing in proof of such an order having been "promulgated by the Government." However, to make things

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* The examination in connection with the scholarships did come off. And the names of the successful candidates were duly anounced. But none of these has been to England, though each one of them has since been getting a scholarship for studying in India why, I cannot say. But the popular impression is that not being the favourite students for whom the scholarships had been meant, these successful canditates were not given them and sent to England.

doubly sure, I wrote to the Nawab Mushtak Hussain for information about it; and he has written to me to say: "There is no truth whatever in the statement made by "a Correspondent," about "a curious order"—alluded to by you. It may be classed with the false "facts" which mischievous people manufacture to poison the minds of the public against the present administration."

The rumour that has been going the rounds in Hyderabad for sometime past, that the Nawab Intesar Jung has resigned his appointment or is about to resign it—is not without foundation. I say so on the authority of the Nawab himself. The Nawab, it would seem, bound himself to serve the Nizam's Government for a period of 30 years when he took service under it during the days of the first Salar Jung. His term of office expires on the 22nd instant and he has put in an application to the Government for permission to retire on pension on that date. "This need be no matter for surprise" writes the Nawab. "I told the late Sir Salar Jung I, when I entered the service that I had no intention of staying here after the completion of my term; and I have all along been telling my friends of my intention to resign my appointment at the close of the term."

Mr. Seymore Keay's visit is looked forward to anxiously by many in Hyderabad. What might come out of his visit, no body could say, or rather I, who do not happen to be in the confidence of the busy bodies who lay much store by it, could not say. But this may be said, that Mr. Keay, such as he has proved himself to be, now that he can be meddlesome with impunity is not likely to keep his hands clean of Hyderabad affairs. I mean to interview him here on his way to Hyderabad, and I may be able to acquaint myself at least with the ostensible object of this, his second visit to the capital of the Nizam after his entrance into the House of Commons.

THE HINDUS AND THE NIZAM'S GOVERNMENT.

HYDERABAD, *13th October 1890.*

It is marvellous how public opinion is being educated, shaped and formed into a factor for the good of the country—by the influence of the Madrasi and the Bengali. Those here who, in season and out of season, thunder their anathemas against these for their "meddlesomeness" and "intellectual dishonesty" have little honesty to perceive the real good that they are doing to Hyderabad. And those in power find it little convenient or to their advantage to confess it. But the fact remains that but for the advanced Madrasi and the Bengali the wishes and feelings of the people might have been to-day as much a sealed-book to those at the helm of affairs as they were a few years ago. This is but by the way.

The "gross injustice" of the appointment of a committee of *orthodox* and *ill-informed* men to decide, from a religious point of view, whether Hindu students could cross the "kala pani," and of the condition imposed by the Government which requires of a student a good knowledge of Persian and Urdu to offer himself as a candidate for the Government scholarship and which prevents many a promising Hyderabadee youth from taking advantage of the opportunity afforded of proceeding to England for purposes of education—is felt strongly and widely here. And the public are bestirring themselves to memorialise the Government with regard to the matter. A meeting of the Chadarghat Social Club was held last night to consider the proposition brought forward by one of its members, Mr. Krishnamachari, B.A., B L., *viz.*, that the Government be memorialized in the matter of sending Hindu students to England for purposes of education. It was a large gathering fully representative of the cult and intelligence of the Hindu portion of the population of the place. In the absence of Rajah Murli Manohur Bahadur, the President, Mr. B. Krishna Iyengar, Vice-President of the "Club," occupied the chair.

The Chairman by way of explaining the object of the meeting said: He was sure that all present missed the presence amidst them of the Rajah Murli Manohur Bahadur, the President. He was sorry that the Rajah was not where he was to advise them with regard to the proposition that had brought them together, and by his words throw the weight of his influence as a member of one of oldest and noblest Hindu families in the State into the scale against any possible opposition in high places. But this consoled him, that the Rajah had been in the Club's rooms a few hours previously, and called away by urgent business elsewhere, left assurance of his sympathy with the object of the meeting and as such would no doubt subscribe his name to the memorial that might be voted to be submitted to the Government by the meeting. Then reading out Mr. Krishnamachari's proposition, he continued: He knew every one would admit that the advantages accruing from a sojourn, however short, in the land of the most enlightened people on the face of the earth, the English—in the land of those whom Providence had put in charge of the destinies of India—were very great. If a short sojourn by reason of giving an insight into the thoughts and feelings of the West was so advantageous, how much more must it be when made with the object of an educational training there? Whether the Shastras allowed of Hindus crossing the seas or not, he could not say. Opinions were divided upon the point—the same passages in the Shastras were differently construed. But this he could say, the times in which we were living were not the same as those in which our ancestors had lived, that we could not, with impunity, remain stationary while all the rest of the world was moving, that the wave of enlightenment, of advanced thought was growing bigger and bigger day by day, that the tide was increasing in volume and to stem it back would be attended with grave consequences. As to antagonism to Hindus going to England, it was not as strong as it had been—as time advanced it grew weaker. The caste people, even Brahmins, were now, in a way of course, willing to admit their England-returned

brethern back into caste—as evidenced in the case of a Brahmin Barrister in Bangalore. This itself showed that belief and prejudice however strongly grounded must give way to the influences of time and circumstances. The major portion of the population in the Nizam's Dominions was Hindu—and Government should be memorialised to show consideration to the claims of this portion, to encourage them educationally and in other ways, to give them opportunities of being serviceable to the State, such opportunities as those of proceeding to England in view to education. With these words, he called upon Mr. Krishnamachari to "move" his proposition.

Mr. V. Krishnamachari, B. A., B. L., said : The chairman had said all that he might have said on the important question of Hindus making Sea-voyage. And he would not weary the meeting with any repetition. The Nizam's Government had sanctioned a number of scholarships for the benefit of Hyderabadee youths desirous of prosecuting their studies in England. And they had entrusted the decision of the question of Hindus going to England to a number of men very orthodox and as such adverse to Hindus going to England. This was a mistake and it needed to be corrected. Then he moved that the Nizam's Government be memoralized in the matter of sending Hindu students to England for purposes of education.

Mr. P. Ramachandram Pillay, a member of the local bar, rising to second the proposition, said : He had been for many years resident in Secunderabad, in His Highness the Nizam's Dominions, and had always taken interest in things affecting the welfare ot the people. Not being a high functionary in the State, he had not done much. But whatever it had been possible for him to do he had not left undone. Recently he had advised a Hindu lad of his acquaintance to put in his application for being permitted to compete for one of the scholarships established by the Government for enabling deserving Hyderabadees to prosecute their studies in England. The advise had been carried out—but the application had been rejected on the score

of the applicant's not knowing Persian and Urdu. Now, he could not for the life of him understand how a knowledge of Persian and Urdu could be of any help to students in their studies in England. No doubt a knowledge of Persian and Urdu was necessary for those who were to serve the Nizam's Government; but then, the knowledge could be acquired by students on their return from England. The selected candidates for the British Indian Civil Service were made to study the Vernaculars of the Districts to which they wished to be appointed during their probationary term of Office. Why should not His Highness's Government do a similar thing? The bringing into existence a committee to decide whether Hindus could, religiously speaking, cross the "black waters" was not called for. And the appointment of purely orthodox men on it, gave room for the suspicion that the Government had prejudged the case—had made up its mind not to allow the Hindus to profit by the opportunities, afforded by the scholarships, of going to England. An impression had had been gaining ground that those in power were opposed to the interests of the Hindus. And this but tended to strengthen this impression. In the memorial to be submitted to the Government it should be stated in clear unmistakable terms that it would do well that it would be to its interest to act so as to remove this impression. In this connection, he might say a word or two about the statement made by the Nawab Intesar Jung with reference to the account of the interview that a friend had had the courage to have with the Nawab on behalf of the "Hindu" *viz.*, that there was apathy on the part of the Hindus to avail themselves of the opportunities given them of educating themselves to a high standard. The Nawab had referred, in exemplification of the statement, to the fact that there were few Hindus in the higher grades of the Pleader's service. He (the speaker) had moved freely with all classes of Hindus in the State, and could state, without the least fear of contradiction, that there was many a Hindu who could hold his own against the Moslem in the higher grades of Pleader's calling. But how Hindus in no way inferior to their Mahome-

dan competitors failed to secure a pass in the examinations admitting them to these grades—was a mystery to him as to every one else. The mystery could not mean any apathy on the part of the Hindus to avail themselves of the opportunities given them of educating themselves to a higher standard.

Mr. Sadagopa Chari, M. A., in supporting the proposition said that the Government should be asked to throw the scholarships open to the Hindus as well as to the Mahomedans.

Then Mr. P. Veeraraghavalu Naidu, a non-member, being permitted by the Chairman to speak on the occasion, said : There was no necessity for asking the Government in the memorial to throw the scholarships open to the Hindus. The Government, notification published in the *Jareeda* a few months previously threw them open to all *bona fide* Hyderabadees, irrespective of caste or creed. And it was the thought that Hindu lads might compete for the scholarships as well as other religionists which led those in power to bring into existence a committee to decide whether, from a religious point of view, Hindus could cross the seas—ostensibly to provide against the impression that the Government was doing anything arbitrarily without consulting the people concerned. So then, our object, in memorializing the Government, should be to prevent them from being solely guided by the opinions of the orthodox men on the committee.

Then the proposition being put to the vote, was carried *nem. con.* And a committee was formed of Messrs Krishna Iyengar Ramachendra Pillai, Krishnamachari and Ramachundra Lakshman, to draw up a memorial to the Government making mention of the points dwelt upon by the different speakers.

HYDERABAD, *21st October 1890.*

The sensation caused by the Nawab Intesar Jung's application for retirement is a matter of ancient history. Some generally well-informed men seem to know all about the secret—and to have prognosticated the result of it. The Nawab has had several hundreds added to his salary. Whether this is due to his application or not—or whether this was one of the objects of the application—I must leave it to those behind the scenes to say. But this much I could say that inquiring about the application the other day the Nawab was kind enough to inform me that "nothing more" had "as yet" been made known to him regarding it.

The inquiry that is being made into the defalcations in the Nizam's Accountant General's office, reveals how corruption flourishes here. A lowly paid *mutsaddhi*—clerk—obtaining the Assistant Accountant General's signature among others, by some fraudulent means, gets a requisition passed and a cheque issued for a certain sum of money. The cheque is duly presented at the Treasury—and cashed. The clerk sees how easily His Highness's trusted and responsible servants could be hoodwinked and repeats his "trick" at intervals and in seven years or more makes away from the Treasury over Rs. 30,000. The authorities wake up at last—and how they seek to trace the culprit and his accomplices and make an example of them, it would be very amusing to know. Think of letting the man who as the head of the office ought to have taken cognisance of the evil and arrested it long before this, scotfree! Think of trying to punish the assistant who signed on the strength of other signatures in the requisitions while leaving the authors of the other signatures in peace! Think of admitting the man whose duty it was to scrutinise so to say every requisition, as a witness and thus placing him beyond the reach of any suspicion! And you have an idea of the influences at work for the elucidation of FACTS. I may have something very important—and startling too—to say about this affair soon. In the meanwhile, I may

tell you that Jaya Rao, a quondam Accountant General's office man for a long time out of service, was taken into custody some days back and had to bail himself out. And yesterday, Mr. Gya Persad, M. A., was cited as a witness for him.

Men in high places are never idle here. They have the pluck to fight their adversaries, if not in open daylight at least in the gloaming. And when they have not work in the enemy's camp they find work in their own. And thus we are destined ever to be "tickled" by the effects of "powder and shot"—covert and overt. In a case—to come—which promises to be not a bit less sensational than the sensational "cases" all the world has heard of, Sir Kurshedjah and Sir Asmanjah figure as complainant and defendant respectively. With advancing age the craving for notoriety, or the desire to do things which one would not do in youth or manhood seems to grow more and more morbid. Years ago, I remember full well, the almost universal impression here was that Sir Kurshedjah was *above* the position of Prime Minister to the Nizam in every way and he could never bring himself to think of coming down to it. But now it is an open secret in all circles that he is moving heaven and earth to become Minister. And a person in a position to know much about Sir Kurshedjah said in the course of a talk, the other day: "He seems to be madly in earnest about becoming minister. One day I told him, 'Nawab Sab, I hear you are to be appointed minister.' 'Am I really going to become minister'? said he, with a longing expression on his face. 'I am afraid I am destined *only* to hear of my becoming minister.' Whether Sir Kurshedjah's inimical attitude towards Sir Asmanjah has anything to do with this desire to rule Hyderabad or not—the fact remains he will soon file certain claims against Sir Asmanjah and has engaged the services of Messrs. Inverarity and Rudra. But Sir Asmanjah seems determined not to be behindhand. We have it on the authority of the *Deccan Standard*, that Sir Asmanjah means to press his claims, before His Highness the

Nizam himself, to succeed to the Paigah of the late Mohtashim-ud-Dowlah, his brother,—the revenues of which are, in part, enjoyed by Sir Kurshedjah according to the first Salar Jung's decision.

Rumour has it that there is to be a vacancy created in the High Court shortly by the retirement of one of the Judges. If this is true, I hope the Nizam's Government will see its way to nominating a Hindu to the place. Roughly speaking, Hindus form nine-tenths of the population in these Dominions. That their claims to be represented on the High Court bench should be overlooked is, to say the least, great injustice.

In acknowledging the memorial sent on the 2nd instant, by the local Hindu Social Club to the Governor-General in Council, praying for the "age of consent" being raised to 14, Colonel J. C. Ardagh, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, writes :—I am desired by the Viceroy to say that the representations therein contained will receive due consideration by the Gvernor-General in Council.

"The Malwala Sabha" which owes its existence to the Rajah Murli Manohur Bahadur is doing a lot of good work in the City. One of its essential objects seems to be to preach to the people on the advantages of education and thus to clear the path of all prejudices. To judge by the large number of men present at a meeting of the "Sabha" I had the pleasure of attending sometime ago, the loud applause that the lecturer of the evening, the Rajah Murli Manohur Bahadur, was every now and then greeted with by them—the weekly lectures of the Sabha are very much appreciated in the city. Mrs. Shaventibai Trimbak Canaran, one of the lady delegates to the Bombay Congress—on a short visit here—addressed one of the meetings of this Association recently on "Female Education." I wish the "Sabha" all success.

I have to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt of a copy of a pamplet on "The proposed Poorhouse and Orphanage for the City" by the Rajah Murli Manohur Bahadur.

"The proposed Poorhouse and Orphanage for the City," is a pathetic appeal made to His Highness the Nizam's Government in behalf of the poor and orphan part of the population of the land. The Rajah Murli Manohur begins by pointing out what constitutes good government—how much the strength of a Government is dependent on the peace and prosperity of the governed—and how the low no less than the high classes of the people serve to give it a lasting character. Then dwelling upon the miseries of the poor, the beggars, and the orphans, he suggests the establishment of "a Poorhouse and Orphanage" in the city. The cost of constructing a building to house 500 people he lays at the modest sum of Rs. 15,000; and thinks that the monthly expenses due to giving food &c., will not exceed Rs. 3,000. He appeals to the Government to undertake to meet but a portion of the expenses to be incurred, and submits the following proposals for raising therest of the sum neces sary for the purpose :—

(1) The Government should be pleased to pay half the cost of the construction of the building from the Public Treasury, and to accord its sanction to the holding of a lottery for raising the other half.

(2) To meet current expenses, a small income-tax should be levied as follows: a tax of half a pie per Rupee on those whose income is Rs. 40 or upwards; and of 3 pies per Rupee on Mansabdars, who practically get paid for doing no work.

(3) Out of the amount alloted to *Urus* ceremonies (offerings to saints), in which a lot of unnecessary expenditure is incurred, five per cent should be paid towards this beneficient purpose. It is certain that the souls of the holy dead will all the more feel pleased and satisfied at this diversion of a portion of the funds set apart for their own propitiation, to the beneficient purpose of protecting helpless orphans.

(4) A sum of Rs. 300 per mensem should be paid from the Government Treasury, 150 for the Orphanage and 150 for the Poorhouse. It is hoped, that by this means, the funds of the institution will always be in a prosperous condition.

(5) A box should be kept in every *Urus Jathra* in the name of the Orphan and Poor Fund and one dub each from persons attending such

gathering should be collected. Any collections thus made shall be expended exclusively for supplying food.

If the sums thus realised are not sufficient to meet current expenses for the maintenance of orphans and the poor, subscriptions should be collected from *Amirs* and *Sahukars*.

So "stands" the appeal made by the public spirited Rajah on behalf of the neglected portion of humanity in these parts. And it is impossible not to recognise the disinterestedness and kindheartedness that every line of it speaks volumes of I am told that some bigwigs are not kindly disposed and will come in the way of the Government showing practical sympathy with the Rajah's noble and laudable object. I fervently hope that this is not true—that influential men will not prove to be so heartless as to stay the hand raised to mitigate the miseries of suffering humanity—and that His Highness's Government will ere long do the needful to bring the Rajah Murli Manohur Bahadur's proposal within measurable distance of success I need hardly say that I wish the Rajah all success in his efforts.

HIS HIGHNESS THE NIZAM'S TREASURY FRAUDS.

HYDERABAD, *November 7.*

As promised in my last, I shall make a beginning to-day in the matter of saying what I have to say—or rather what one unwarped by party influences and acquainted with the facts o the case, has to say—on the subject of tho frauds which has been stirring the public mind for some time past. The inquiry set on foot into the frauds reveals a new phase of activity in the history of factions here. Hitherto men in power were content with sweeping off into the obscurity of nominal positions all their antagonists. But now, nothing short of the utter disgrace and ruin of all in their path of self-aggrandisement, seems to satisfy them. We have known for a long, long time that the administration of justice in the Hyderabad Courts is a farce—and the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung has had the courage to fling this truth in the teeth of the Minister in his application (published in the *Deccan Times*); but we never knew before this that a Judge of the High Court was capablo of misinterpreting evidence and indulging in gratuitous reflections with respect to witnesses. But we live and learn, you know.

In connection with the Treasury frauds, I have to notice two cases. One was disposed of some time ago by Mr. Afsul Husain the Senior puisne Judge of the Hyderabad *Adawlat-aitaliya*—it cannot be called the High Court in this particular instance—and the second case is at present pending before the same learned Judge. The first case attracted little or no attention, probably because Jaya Rao, the chief of the accused therein, was comparatively an insignificant man in Hyderabad politics. While the second case in which such well-known names as the Nawab Hussan Bin Abdulla, Imad Nawaz Jung Bahadur and the Rajah Srinivas Rao figure among the accused, is creating a great deal of sensation in all circles here. The proceedings, so far as they

have been gone through, have been so flagrantly irregular in character as to call forth a leader—even at the risk of social ostracism—from the Editor of the *Deccan Times,* severely animadverting on the conduct of the Judge, as well as to be stigmatised by the Government itself as "a grave error." (*Vide* resolution of Government, published in the *Deccan Times* of the 1st Instant over the signature of the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung Bahadur wherein it is stated that the Minister is of opinion that the court has committed a grave error in the matter, etc). Before saying anything about the first case, I should like to supplement briefly the remarks in the *Deccan Time's* leader *in re* the second one. Being asked to enlarge Sriram Pandit, one of the accused in this case, on bail, by his counsel, Mr. Nelson, the Judge is reported to have said : "I am not inclined to grant your application, as considering the evidence before me which I am not at present prepared to disclose, I deem it right to refuse the application." Wherefrom did the Judge receive "the evidence before me which I am not at present prepared to disclose"? Was he justified in receiving *sub rosa* evidence against accused? And these lead us to the question : Is it after all true that these are all trumped-up cases, the decisions whereof had been written out, or at all events thought out before any proceedings actually began? Those that are learned in the law ought to be able to say whether after such an admission as that made in open Court with reference to Mr. Nelson's application for bailing Sriram Pandit out, the Judge can be held competent to try the case. But to us, laymen, it seems masquerading with justice to allow to sit in judgment over any one, a man, a Judge though he be of the High Court, who is liable not only to receive impressions outside the pale of the Court but to hold a sort of a consultation with the prosecution. This conduct of the Judge lends colour to the ugly rumours afloat in the City to the effect that his judgment in the first case—a special translation of which appears in the *Deccan Standard*, the mouthpiece of the Government, not so much it would seem, to throw any light on the subject as to propagate wanton libels and fictions for the de-

lectation of a special public—was written within closed doors. This brings us to the first case. No information either about the working of the Accountant-General's Office or about the period "during which Jaya Rao was engaged in submitting the accounts of the liabilities of the late Mukhtar-ul-mulk"—came out in evidence in Court. Yet an account of the working of the office is given and reference is made to the period in the judgment above referred to. Where and how did Mr. Afsul Husain get information regarding these? This question certainly does not furnish any contradiction to the ugly rumours I have alluded to—it does not weaken the impression produced on the public mind by the rumours; on the other hand, it strengthens it. Just as Mr. Gya Persad was taking charge of the office of the Deputy Accountant-General, a memo was submitted to him from the Pre-audit Department. He attached thereto a memo expressing his opinions thereon and passed it on to the Accountant-General for final orders. And the Accountant-General *did* issue an order holding the Assistant Accountant-General of the Pre-Audit Department wholly responsible for the correctness of cheques. There is no doubt that the latter part of this order by itself is rather ambiguous. But taken as a whole the order leaves not the slightest room for doubting that the Accountant General confirmed Mr. Gya Persad's memo. The Judge had it in his power to convince himself of this by referring to the order-book in which this order, which had been circulated in the Accountant General's office, finds place. Although Mr. Gya Persad's Memo on the subject of the responsibility of issuing cheques is given in *extenso* in the judgment published in the *Deccan Standard,* all but a referrence to the Accountant General's order is studiously avoided—studiously, I saw advisedly, for the first two lines alone of this order expose the falsity of the statement in the judgment, "that the memo was not confirmed by the Nawab Mokaraub Jung Bahadur, the Accountant General when laid before him." So large was the amount and so varied the nature of the work that Mr. Gya Persad was expected to do, that shortly after he had take n

charge of the office of Deputy Accountant General, he had to give up even signing cheques "blind-folded." In the light of all these facts, the portion of Afsul Husain's judgment I have been concerned with, furnishes the clearest possible case not only of *suppressio veri* but of *suggestio falsi.* No respectable member of the Bar bound to defend his client would stoop to such subterfuges—but the senior puisne judge of the *Adawlat-ai-atiya* is a privileged person! It is stated in the judgment: "He (Mr. Gya Persad) further admitted that such an innovation (as is suggested in his memo.) could not have been brought into force without the sanction of Government, and that such sanction was not obtained." What Mr. Gya Persad actually admitted was that if the Accountant General's Office were a well-regulated office no innovation in the "practices" of it could be introduced without the sanction of the Government. I leave you to see how far this accords with the admission ascribed to Mr. Gya Persad by the Judge. I may remark in passing that the Accountant General's office is one of the worst managed offices in the State—not one man therein has his duties defined but depends for work solely on the discretion of the Accountant General. The judgment has it that "when Jaya Rao had to sign cheques he, either through misconception, or wilfully, also made it (the Accountant General's order on Mr. Gya Persad's memo.) a safeguard for himself, and leaning on it signed fictitious cheques. This is the very period during which Jaya Rao was engaged in submitting the account of the liabilities of the late Mukhtar-ul-mulk. . . . At this time on account of intrigues in which both of them were engaged, Jaya Rao had become exceedingly bold. The link of these intrigues is in existence still." A tissue of statements more characterised by untruth and rancour, I have not come across. The first fictitious cheque, as shown in the statement given in the judgment became complete order for payment on the 21st Farwardi 1297 F, while the Salar Jung liability accounts had been settled long before that time, about Amerdad or Sharawar 1296 F. Yet the period of the issue of the fictitious cheques is said by Mr. Afsul

Husain to be syncronous with that of the settlement of the Salar Jung liability-accounts. Poor Afsul! Some one seems to have "pilled" him to his heart's content. As for the latter part of the above quotation, where is the relevancy, I ask, of the remarks contained therein? Further on in the judgment it is said: "Gaya Persad's evidence fully shows that he had gone to assist the Pleader in behalf of the accused. Under such circumstances, the evidence given by him is of no use to the accused." How the evidence given by one who went to assist the accused's Pleader could be of no use—the "learned" Judge best knows himself.

So much about the sins of commission. Now I shall say a few words about those of omission. Here too Afsul Husain does not come off with flying colours. You will see from the foregoing that I have studiously avoided saying anything *anent* the merits of the case itself. But now it becomes absolutely necessary to refer to a point which in the trial of Jaya Rao and others was—intentionally or not I cannot say—altogether lost sight of. And the point is the question—whether the Treasury (as distinguished from the Accountant-Generals Office)was quite guiltless (in a criminal sense) or unculpable (in a departmental sense). There is no doubt that the cheques were fictitious. But in favour of whom were they cashed and why? The cheques of the Accountant-Generals Office are payable to the person named therein or to his order,—and not to bearer. Now, it is an established fact that in few cases a first class Bank would undertake to receive cheques payable to a particular person or "to order." But when once the responsibility is undertaken, it becomes the duty of the Bank to satisfy itself of the genuineness of the endorsements on the cheques before they are cashed. What then were the steps, I ask, taken by the Treasury to assure itself that the endowments on the reverse of the fictitious cheques were genuine and bore the signatures of the persons in whose favour they were "drawn"? The failure to ascertain the genuineness or

otherwise of the cheques means connivance, collusion or culpable neglect of duty. Has any attempt been made to make the Treasury Officer or his office people account for the failure? No; and why not? Because as a favourite of the Minister, Munaverkhan, then Treasury Officer and now Officiating Accountant-General, stands next only to the Nawab Intesar Jung. A potent reason to be sure; and this is labelled *Justice* in Hyderabad.

I believe I have noticed the judgment enough for to-day to give you an idea of the prejudice and influences that Afsul Husain has allowed to be brought to bear upon his judgment This is the man who, secure from his position on the Bench against the penalties prescribed for defamation characterises the evidence of a witness as untrustworthy, without a shred of a reason for doing so, and indulges in gratuitous insinuations with respect to him. And this is the man too who sat in judgment over Jaya Rao, *once* Deputy Accountant-General and sentenced him to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5,000 and who sits in judgment over such men as the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung and the Rajah Srinivas Rao, to award —God knows!—what punishment.

HYDERABAD, *27th November 1890.*

The gnashing of teeth and searching of hearts caused in certain official circles by my letter on the Hyderabad Treasury frauds published in your issue of the 14th Instant—the running man might have seen. Speculation has been rife in some quarters as to the authorship of the letter—and I am credibly informed that the house of a poor innocent suspect who has the misfortune to live in the Moglai Jurisdiction was searched. But no one has ventured to gainsay the facts mentioned therein or question the inferences drawn therefrom. The Government organ, as expected, attempted a reply to my letter, but the reply only tended to expose the extreme weakness of the cause it essayed to advocate. Evidently on the principle, "Call a dog by a bad name and then hang it," the "Deccan Standard" termed my experience "unfledged" and slurred over my remarks *anent* the administration of Justice in Hyderabad. Though it is not pleasant or convenient for interested men here to remember, it may interest your readers to know, that what I said in my letter about the way in which things are managed in the Hyderabad Courts had been stated before that in stronger terms by a well-known Barrister who has had a great deal to do with these courts in connection with Gribble *vs.* Gallagher thus: "It is a well-known fact that Justice in Hyderabad is a toss-up, and the Judges are all more or less partizans of the Government." The "Hyderabad Record" reproduced my letter on the Treasury frauds in its issue of the 24th Instant. But for its having changed hands, the letter would I am sure, have been allowed to pass unnoticed by the "Record." Either its present proprietors are strong enough to do without the favour of the men in power or they are not aware of the threat—to withhold all Government patronage, in the shape of Job-work, &c.,—held out to its former proprietors in a confidential letter from the Home Secretary, on the occasion of the publication, in its columns, of a paragraph to the effect that Mushtak Hussain was more anixous to add a few ciphers to his own salary than to do

justice by the living representative of an old illustrious Hindu family. The "Record" while reproducing the letter, gave its readers to understand that it reserved its remarks on the case the letter dealt with for a future occasion as it 'was still *sub-judiec.*' Mark! The case according to the decision passed by Afzul Hussain in which old Jaya Rao with several others is in chains is *sub-judice* in the opinion of the Editor of the "Hyderbad Record". This, as well as the fact that the "Hindu," published hundreds of miles away from Hyderabad, evinces greater interest in its affairs and the welfare of the Hyderabadees than the papers in the place, furnishes a curious commentary upon the way in which the local Journalists discharge their 'solemn trust.' I have one more local Journal to notice. The "Safeeri-—Dekhan" published a translation, a mutilated one though it was, of my letter. And for this, I am informed, the Editor was severly rated by one of the smaller fry of the present Government at the race stand, the other day.

I have to say a few words about the second case in connection with the Treasury frauds. The Government has so far been influenced by public opinion that instead of committing the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung and the Rajah Srinivasa Rao and others to the "tender mercies" of the despotic legal instincts of Afzul Hussain, it has appointed a commission to try them, though, on what principle the self-same Afzul Hussain has been nominated President of the commission, God only knows. In this case Dilwar Nawaz Jung, the principal offender, has been granted pardon by the Government. But what the object or nature of "the pardon" is, it is not possible to say. Up to now, Dilwar Nawaz Jung has not been examined on oath as "Queen's evidence". And whether the pardon secures to him immunity from punishment only, or immunity from punishment as well as the right to keep unto himself the 4,50,000 Hali Sicca rupees due from him to Government, those who were instrumental in the granting of the pardon alone could say. If the pardon has for its object the providing against Dilwar Nawaz Jung's being

punished as well as parting with the money, then it would mean that that man who profitted by the frauds has been bribed to incriminate others. Besides this, I have to mention another fact which goes far to show that the proceedings of the Government are not dictated by the best of motives. I mean the ommission of the *then* Treasurer's name or the names of his office men from the list of the accused in the second case—which has caused not a little surprise in knowing circles here. The cheque for Rs. 47,000 was payable to Chaturbuja Dass, and yet the money was paid to Saligram. And the statement that it was done so on the strength of a verbal order from Jaya Rao, the Deputy Accountant General, does not count for much in the face of the fact that Jaya Rao denies having issued such an order. The systematic omission of the then treasurer's name from the list of the accused in this as well as the first case in connection with the frauds, is significant. You will see from the above that I have said nothing to prejudice the case now pending.

A case has recently come to my knowledge, which represents Mushtak Hussain's Government in no favourable light—or rather which throws a flood of light on the mysterious ways of it. One Tirumal Rao, once a clerk in the Accountant General's Office, inherited on the demise of his two elder brothers, all their *Muktas* and *Rasoons*. He had been in the enjoyment of the revenues of these *Muktas* and *Rasoons* for sometime, when he was asked, I am told to do something which he refused to do, either because he was honest or because he dreaded consequences. And in consequence, official persecution was initiated against him. The question of Tirmal Rao's right to inherit his brother's estate was raked up. And a precis of the case was made up by the most trusted of Mushtak Hussain's assistants in the Revenue Secretariat, so as to warrant the confiscation of the *Muktas* and *Rasoons*. Mushtak Hussain, the minister *de facto*, signed the precis; the Nawab Basheerud Daulah, the puppet minister, approved of the confiscation; and Tirimal's *Muktas* and *Rasoons* were duly confiscated. I may state here

that the *Sunnadhs* authorizing possession of the *Muktas* etc., that Tirumal Rao held, had been granted to him under the authority and seal of the late Sir Salar Jung II; and that a long *Roobkar* issued by the Political and Financial Secretary's office during the time of the Second Salar Jung on which the whole case hinged was not so much as referred to in the precis although it had been addressed to the Revenue Secretary and formed the most important paper of the file of the case in the Revenue Secretariat. Tirumal Rao, though a very insignificant man, somehow managed to get a hearing from His Highness the Nizam. And at the instance of His Highness, than whom it would be difficult to find a ruler more clear headed and interested in the welfare of his subjects, the case was gone into by two of the most prominent officers of His Highness' staff. The Assistant in the Revenue Secretariat who had drawn up the precis, was Summoned before them, the proceedings which had resulted in the confiscation of the *Muktas* etc, were quashed, and the *Muktas* and *Rasoons* were restored to Tirumal Rao. It is rumoured in the city that orders were about to be passed for the suspension of the Assistant in the Revenue Secretariat when the all-powerful Mushtak Hussain interceded and saved his protege. Now, I ask, should not the Government have enquired as to the reason for ignoring in the precis the existance of the *Roobkar* from the Political and Financial Secretary's Office! And should not Mushtak Hussain whose signature the precis bears be held responsible for it?

Sir Asmanjah has recently issued to the City Kotwal an order to the effect that he should not arrest any of his own or the Nawab Vicar-ul-Umra's retainers under any circumstances—thus making an invidious distinction of his and Vicar-ul-Umra's retainers and those of Sir Kurshedjah and other noblemen. The inadvisability, if not the unreasonableness, of the order is apparent, and I refrain from making any comments upon it.

I have been placed in possession of some facts giving an insight into the means employed to bring about the non-accep-

tance of Mushtak Hussain's application for retirement on pension. I hold these over for another letter and hope in the meantime to be able to assure myself of the correctness of them.

The Nawab Abdul Latif Khan Bahadur C. I. E. of Calcutta is still here. He does not seem to be a *persona grata* to some of those in power; but, all the same, he is receiving a hearty reception at the hands of the noblemen and the leaders of people here. And he is sure to carry away pleasant recollections of his visit to this city. Last night the members of the Chaddarghaut "Hindu Social Club," of which the Rajah Murli Manohur Bahadur is President, assembled in the club rooms to meet the Nawab. He came in at about 6-15 p. m. and in his chat with the members, which lasted for about two hours, proved himself a genial large-hearted oldman who carried his 62 years lightly. He said he noticed with regret the absence of sympathy between those at the helm of affairs and their Hindu fellow subjects, and felt surprised that the Hindus who formed a vast majority in the State were not represented in the administration. He spoke of the Indian National Congress movement and said that though he sympathised with it, he had to keep aloof from it because he did not want to lose touch with his Moslem followers who were not advanced enough to appreciate the congress and thus lose all chance of doing good to them. Then he spoke of the necessity there was for Hindus and Mahomadans to unite and "fight" constitutionally for previleges, the low state into which indigenous industries had fallen and so on and so on. He bade the members "goodbye" at about 8-30 p. m.

HYDERABAD, *6th December, 1890*.

The past week has been eventful otherwise than politically for the execution of the sentence of death by hanging passed on a Madrasee lad, named Dorasawmi, for murdering a child, and the preferring of a charge of child-murder against Mr. W. D. Edwards, of the now defunct "Telegraph" and of the "Hyderabad Prize Union Lottery" notoriety by his wife. Dorasawmi suffered the extreme penalty of the law last Monday morning. And Mr. Edward's murdering his son, a boy of about 10 years of age, turned out to be the reverse of truth—the creation, evidently, of the imagination of an anxious, sorrowing mother. He was acquitted last Thursday morning, by Mr. Bosanquet, C.S., on the strength of the evidence of Drs. Hehir and Lawrie—who had held medical examinations on the body of the deceased child—which went to show that the child had died from exhaustion caused by chronic dysentery.

An item of social news that comes to me from a trustworthy quarter is worth telling, as giving one an idea as to what an exaggerated sense of their own importance and influence some people entertain in Hyderabad, and how much they calculate upon it. A gentleman on the staff of His Excellency Sir Asmanjah Bahadur introduced, I am told, into the company assembled at Basheer-Bagh on the occasion of the last dance therein, a young lady not generally received in what is called high class society. The society ladies could not put up with this, and they in a body went into the cloak-room and ordered out their carriages—with the result that the 'offender' chaperoned his young lady away from the scene though much against his will.

In my last letter I referred to Sir Asmanjah as "the puppet minister." Your readers might like to know why I did so. It is an open secret that Sir Asmanjah could not—at any rate, does not—dispose of any single 'paper,' although hundreds of such papers are submitted to him daily. In the first instance each paper goes to Mushtak Husain who reads it and pins to it a

scrap of paper containing an endorsement or opinion for the Minister to copy out thereon. This fact could be testified to by most of the heads of offices here, for at one time or another some of these scraps with a tale to tell have found their way, through carelessness surely, into them and caused no little amusement therein. This conveys truth but not the full truth about the way the minister administers the State. Mehdi Hassan as being next in rank to Mushtak Husain is accorded the privilege of submitting papers from his office direct to the Minister. And even *he* can get no orders passed without the knowledge of the Minister *de facto*. Whenever Mehdi Hussan is announced at the Minister's place, the Minister inquires if Mushtak Husain is there; and if the wise Mushtak is *non est* Mehdi Hussan, however important and urgent in character his papers may be, is made to await his arrival. And then both are ushered into the Minister's presence. Sir Asmanjah hears the papers read by Mehdi Hassan, keeping a close watch all the while on his factotum's face, and guided by the expression of it—this by the way, puts me in mind of Rajah Rampal Sing's description of the ways of some members of Legislative councils—he either affixes his signature to the papers or refuses to do so and asks for the papers to be left with him. This is a fact—and represents a funny, though very much to-be-regretted state of affairs. If the Minister is so helpless why should not, it might be asked, Mushtak Hussain be appointed as Minister?

I told you in my last how persecution is initiated against those that have in any way proved themselves obnoxious to those in power. I shall in this give you an instance or two to show how they allow themselves to be moved in favour of the "favourites." I have to refer to a case disposed of some months ago by the city High Court, *viz.*, the case of Balakishan Doss. Balakishan was alleged to have committed forgery on a certain document said to be in the Political and Financial Secretary's office. The Political and Financial Secretary's office was written to for the document and it was duly despatched from the office. Reaching the Court after it had closed, the

document was, according to the instructions of a Judge who happened to be there, entrusted to the Registrar of the Court, and he had it safely locked up in a room. The night passed; but the next morning the Judges were informed that the document had been stolen away the previous night. The Nawab Akbar Jung, the city kotwal, was ordered to inquire into the abstraction. The Nawab inquired and submitted a report to Government but to find that his inquiry had been all a wild goose chase. The report never saw the light of day. This is instance No. 1. About two weeks ago a set of double cheques or fictitious cheques to the value of about Rs. 11,000 was discovered to have been issued by the Pre-audit Department of the Accountant General's office. But no notice has as yet been taken of this. The Pre-audit as well as the Military Branches being officered by the lucky favourites nothing will probably come out of the discovery. And this is instance No. 2.

Now about how the Nawab Mushtak Husain's resignation came to be not accepted by His Highness the Nizam: Mushtak Husain, as every well-informed person here is aware, put in his resignation expecting to be asked by His Highness to withdraw it because of the Ministers's influence with him. And when it transpired that His Highness was willing to accept his resignation, he felt like one caught in the meshes of his own net and summoned two of his henchmen to help him out of the difficulty. He and two other high officials in the State met in a solemn conclave and deliberated and deliberated until at last they hit upon the most effective remedy—that of raising a cry of public calamity. Then the partisans went about one by one at regular intervals making Mushtak Hussain's resignation out to be a "public calamity." And this cry of "public calamity" saved Mushtak Husain.

We have a fair, every year, held on the occasion of a festival in Sri Ramaswami's Temple at Jeedkal—in the Eastern Division—the part of His Highness's Dominions said to have most benefitted by the Nawab Intesar Jung's symathy towards

the ryots? The fair for this year came off on Sunday, the 30th of November. Several high officials of the State went to witness it. And one of them, the Nawab Medhi Hassan Fateh Nawaz Jung proposed the health of "one whose name was inseparably connected with the advance, the prosperity and well-being of the Eastern Division,"—that is, the Nawab Intesar Jung—in terms that could not be applied to any one person living He spoke of the lucky Nawab as perfection all round. I am not going to quarrel with him for this, for I know as well as any one else, that every one has his own way of looking at things, has neither the same eyes to look with or the same medium to look through. But only I wish to look at his "perfection" for a little while as a servant of the Government—as the Revenue Secretary. According to a Government order a sub-tenant could be ousted out of a land, by the owner, within 12 years of his possession of it by means of a complaint to a Revenue Court. And yet those at the head of affairs in one of the Divisions disposed of thousands of cases on the assumption that a sub-tenant in possession for 3 years could not be ousted except by a complaint to the Civil Court—the more costly of the revenue and civil courts. The Nawab Mushtak Husain who must have, as the Revenue Secretary, heard some of these cases in appeal, failed to take any notice of this injustice—this contravention of Government orders. Then again, Mushtak Hussain, though placed in possession of the most notorious facts about the administration of the Parbani District has not stirred so much as a finger of his with regard to the matter. Such instances could be multiplied. So much for Mushtak Hussain as the Revenue Secretary—for 'his sympathy towards the ryots.'

I should like to tell you how the Hindu Rajas in His Highness's Dominions fare at the hands of the clique in power—what a hard time of it they have under the present regime. You will remember that some weeks ago I referred in your columns to the litigation threatening between the Raja Sahib of Anagondi and Bansi Rajah because the latter, the Raja Sahib's creditor,

had been allowed, by the Revenue Secretary, to take forcible possession of two villages, Koorgul and Sangameswar, comprising the private estates of the Raja Sahib. The most remarkable thing in this connection was, as you will remember, that when the Raja Sahib of Anagondi appealed to Mushtak Husain as Revenue Secretary against the arbitrary proceedings which had culminated in Bansi Raja's taking forcible possession of the villages, he was referred—by Mushtak Hussan—to a civil court. Now, I shall put before you a short account of the way in which the Raja Sahib has been reduced by the powers-that-be to the position of a Raja only in name. You know that Anagondi is what has descended to the present Raja of the once powerful kingdom of Vijayanagar. The First Mysore war reduced its limits considerably, and the second Mysore war reduced them further still—and in consequence the revenue fell from 60,000 star pagodas to 8,710 star pagodas. This brings us to the time of Sri Krishna Deva Rajulu who, dying childless, was succeeded by his widow Rani Kuppamma. The Rani adopted Sri Sriranga-dava Rajulu, the present Raja in Farwardi 1297 Fasli. Recognizing this adoption the Nizam's Government, curiously enough, directed that Anagondi should pay an annual *peishcush* of H. S. Rs. 10,000. The state not having paid *peishcush* of any kind before this, the Nizam's Government was appealed to against this new ruling—and consequently the Anagondi state was put under attachment and the Subadar of the Southern Division was sent to Anagondi to report on the State of the place. The Subadar after due enquiry, reported the inability of the Raja to pay any *peishcush* ; and this, you would be surprised to learn, resulted in a *Roobkar* from the Revenue Secretary, dated the 24th Aban, 1298 Fasli, which raised the *peishcush* from 10,000 to 18,800 H. S. Rs. payable with retrospective effect from Fasli 1297. The Raja Sahib appealed again; and Mr. A. J. Dunlop, Inspector-General of Revenue was deputed by the Government to visit Anagondi to report thereon. Mr. Dunlop, after seeing things for himself there, recommended the imposition of a nominal *peishcush* of H. S. Rs. 1,000 per annum. This recom-

mendation fell flat upon the authorities concerned. The Raja Sahib thereon submitted a memorial to His Highness the Nizam through his Private Secretary. And his memorial and repeated reminders having elicited no reply, the Raja Sahib's counsel, Mr. S. B. R. Aiengar, Barrister-at-Law, called upon the Private Secretary, I am told, and at his suggestion has made a representation of the whole case to the Resident. The Resident's decision is awaited eagerly by all Hindus. The tale that this tells of the procedure of the present administration, I have no time to comment upon in this letter.

I am informed that the City High Court, has called upon Mr. Rudra to show cause why he should not be debarred from appearing before it for his remarks about the administration of justice in Hyderabad in connection with Gribble *versus* Gallagher.

HYDERABAD, *13th December 1890.*

The local papers are full of a horrible murder committed in the city. A native Christian woman (a Mahomedan convert) was in the absence of her husband, decoyed into an out-of-the-way part of the city on Saturday evening, last, and there, stripped of the valuables about her person, was inhumanly tortured to death. The mangled heap was carefully packd up in a box and sent the next day to the Hyderabad Goods Shed to be booked to Lahore as a consignment of wearing apparel. The booking office being closed—it being a Sunday—the box was taken back to the city, but it was brought to the Goods Shed on Monday. the 8th instant, and was duly booked ; and a receipt being granted therefor, the consigenee, by name Abool Hoossain, walked away without in the least betraying himself. Hours passed and the murderous deed remained unsuspected until the stench sent forth by the dead body in an advanced state of decomposition attracted attention. Then the city Kotwal and others were sent for. and in their persence the box was opened and the mutilated corpse was pulled out of a gunny bag in which it had been tied up to unfold its frightful tale. Those concerned in the murder including the man who presented the package at the Goods shed to be booked to Lahore, have—thanks to the energy of our city Kotwal—since been apprehended. The chief actor of this blood—curdling tragedy is said to be a pleader related to the person who acted as crown-prosecutor in the first of the Treasury frauds cases.

You know that roughly speaking seven-ninths of the population of His Highness the Nizam's Dominions, are Hindus. And common sense would allow to the interests and comforts of this vast majority a larger share of the attention of the Ruler than that devoted to any other section of the people. But what is it that we see here ? The paucity—if not the utter absence —of Hindus in the higher grades of the services, is striking and takes every new comer by surprise. And as if the systematic withholding of official favour were not enough, the Hindus

are not even permitted to celebrate their festivals undisturbed. Whenever *Dasara* falls within the ten days of Moharrum, the Hindus are forbidden to observe the ceremonies of the season until Mohorrum is over. And the annoyance and discomfort this causes, a Hindu alone can understand. Happy are the Hindus of Barhampore who narrowly escaped being put on a level with the Hindus f these Dominion! They really need to be congratulated on their rare good fortune. You will remember that sometime ago the Bombay Government deputed Mr. Silcox, B. C. S., and the Nizam's Government Rai Murlidhar to settle the boundary limits of their respective territories. This settlement necessitated the Hyderabad Government's giving away a number of villages in return for others; but it was secretly hinted to Rai Murlidhar by some of the party in power that he should try and get from the Bombay Government the town of Barhampore, in Central India—containing the tombs of Sir Asmanja's ancestors—instead of these villages. Rai Murlidhar for some reason or other did not take the hint. And for this I am informed. it was proposed to deprive him of his office of First Taluqdar at Aurungabad and to appoint him to an inferior post. Rai Murlidhar heard of the intention of the Government and sent in his resignation. But—somehow—the resignation was not accepted and Rai Murlidhar's degradation was never more thought of. Your readers can understand now what a fate threatened Barhampore not long ago.

I might be permitted to put the Nawab Intesar Jung Bahadur—I beg his pardon, I mean the Nawab Vicar-ul-Doulah Vicar-ul-mulk that he was exalted into at His Highness's birthday Durbar on Tuesday last—a question. When the news of the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung's having been called to the Bar (without his putting in the full number of terms) reached Hyderabad many were glad and one in patticular, *viz.*, Mushtak Hussain, then the Nawab Intesar Jung and now the Nawab Vicar-ul-Dowlah Vicar-ul-mulk. And he gave expression to his gladness in a remarkable manner. He issued a circular that every one of those that wished to congratulate the Nawab

on his success by wire might send him money enough to cover the cost of a telegram to England. And lots of money poured in from the revenue officials in the Districts. Was Mushtak Hussain justified in issuing this circular—private though it was —knowing that coming from him, the Revenue Secretary, it would be regarded as a command by all his subordinates? How might a Taluqdhar have been dealt with for doing a similar thing?

His Highness's Birthday Durbar came off on the evening of Tuesday last. Forty one people were decorated with titles—but few of these, it might be remarked without the least fear of contrrdiction, 'waded' through meritorious services to honors. Probably, just as man does not live by bread alone, man does not attain to honors by service alone! The titles, under the inspiration or at the request of some are so indiscrimiuately bestowed that it may well be feared that the day is not far off when respectable men will refuse to be "decorated" and regard these titles, like those in the reign of the last king of Lucknow as anything but badges of honor.

I learn that Mr. Norton, of the Madras bar, has made a strong representation to the Government pointing out the necessity for removing Afzul Husain from the Commission appointed to try the Nawab Hassan-Bin-Abdulla and others. The representation is not likely to have any effect. I have been put in possession of some facts giving an insight into the wire-pulling of the "authors" of the treasury frauds cases; but I shall not communicate them to you until I have got them verified.

Hyderabad, *20th December 1890.*

Of all the letters, paragraphs and articles that have appeared recently in the local papers about the Hyderabad Letters in the "Hindu" there is one letter that deserves notice, and it is from the pen of Mr. P. St. L. Connor, who "was Agent, Manager and Editor of the "Hyderabad Record" since the death of the late lamented Mr. Job Solomon, and manager since the establishment of the "Record" press and paper." Mr. Connor has written to the papers to contradict a statement I made in my letter of the 29th ultimo about a threat having been held out to the "Record's" former proprietors to withhold all Government patronage in the shape of job-work, etc—in the interests of truth and justice forsooth. "Never was any such threat held out" writes he "nor was even any kind of hint which the most extravagant imagination could have construed into a threat ever received." If so, Mr. Connor ought to be able to tell us how it was that most of the Government offices here stopped giving the "Record" Press any job-work just before Mr. Solomon's death—how it was that while the Government budget for 1299 F. was printed at the "Record" Press, that for 1300 F. was printed elsewhere. Is it not a fact that but for its having changed hands, the "Record" Press would still have been outside the pale of Government patronage?

The murder that I gave a short account of in my last letter is creating a good deal of sensation in some circles here. The Chadderghat Christians seem to be almost unanimous in thinking that the deceased fell a prey to Moslem bigotry; while some people ascribe the murder to jealousy on the part of the dead woman's lovers. Be the motive for the crime what it may, the criminals need to be made examples of. The Rev. Mr. Gilder, of the Chaddarghat Methodist Episcopal Church, whose *munshi* the murdered woman's husband has been for some time, is moving Heaven and Earth to get the murderers tried by the Residency authorities. That Mr. Gilder's effort will bear no fruit, that the Residency people will refuse to have any thing to

do with a murder which was committed within the Moglai jurisdic tion—one does not need to be told. But then, if the Reverend gentleman's anxiety to get the case out of the hands of the Moglai Judge serves to show what little confidence the public have in justice as it is administered by the Moglai Courts, it will be regrettable indeed.

Information reaches me that an order has been recently passed by the Government to the effect that those that are in custody in connection with the Treasury frauds cases shall have to pay the rents of the houses they are lodged in as well as the salaries of the peons that keep guard over them. Have you heard of any thing, Mr. Editor, better indicative of the utter disregard of the rights of under-trial men than this curious order?

Census work has been taken in hand here in right earnest. Mr. Bains, C. S., Census Commissioner for India, who paid a visit to this place lately with a view to inspect Census operations here, commended the management of the Assistant Engineer of the Chadarghat Municipality, Mr. Samuel Cornelius, to the notice of the authorities concerned, and is reported to have made some suggestions as to the numbering of houses in the city. In this connection I might mention a circular issued to the District Officials by His Excellency Sir Asmanjah some time since. This order commands Subhas or Taluqdhars to confiscate the Jagheers of such of the Jagheerdars in His Highness's dominions as fail to make arrangements for taking census in their respective territories, and not to restore them until further orders from the Government. Can *zcolum* go further?

The "Deccan Punch"—a local Urdu weekly—of the 3rd Instant, has a most libellous attack on the Raja Murli Manohur Bahadur. The "Punch" falls foul of the Raja because he is President of the Chadarghat "Hindu Social Club"—and the "Social Club," as you know, memorialised the Nizam's Government the other day about the scholarship question. "It

must be observed," says the sage of the "Punch" "that is Raja Murli Manohur's, that the present Government wants that there should be good management in the *Malwala Daftar*, and that Raja Murli Manohur is a member of the *Malwala Daftar*." A more malicious and mischievous paragraph than this I have not come across. Every man with a modicum of commonsense must admit that the "Hindu Social Club" is no more Raja Murli Manohur's than it is the Vice-President's or the Secretary's or any member's. As President of the Club, the Raja can only advise the members on the matters that come up occasionally before him—he can neither do anything against the wishes of the majority, nor can he turn and twist them about as he likes. With regard to the scholarship question itself: I know it for a fact that when one or two of the members spoke to the Raja about memorializing the Government, he told them that he was sure the Government would throw the scholarship open to Hindus as well as to other sections of the community. The members memorialized in spite of his telling so. And if he "purposely absented himself" from the meeting convened to draw up a memorial, as we are given to understand by *Punch*, did he not thereby make it clear that he did not wish to join in the cry of "injustice done to Hindus?" As for the Raja Murli Manohur's wishing that there should not be good management in the *Malwala Daftar* of which he is a member; he is admitted on all hands to be one of the most intelligent and energetic men we have in Hyderabad. It can be no more said of him that he does not want the management to be 'good' than it can be said of a strong robust man that he is afraid to have a tussel with a weakling. And to state that from interested motives the Raja wants to discredit the present Government—is to invent an untruth with a view to make him obnoxious to the party in power.

The Birth-day Durbar has come and gone, and the Raja Kishen Persad finds himself none the better for it. The Raja who is the living representative of a family but for which Hy-

derabad would long since have gone out of the hands of the Nizam, is as far away as ever from getting the *Khilet* of the office of Peishkar. We are every now and then told in "high falutin" that the Peishkarship has long been a sinecure. If Peishkarship has been a sinecure, so have many offices in the State been. But there is a good reason keeping it up while the keeping up of other offices has or can have no justification. And that is, that the claimant to it is the lineal descendant of one.—the late Raja Chandu Lal—to whom the Nizam ought to feel ever thankful. Those that are bent upon or are responsible for "reducing" the Peishkar family may be said to have plied the pruning shears desirably by a handful of interested men. But they will ever be looked upon by a vast majority of the population of these Dominions as the aliens who ruined the ancient families of the land with a view to enrich themselves, to fatten their own "calves."

Sometime ago a notice was published in the *Jareeda*—the Government Gazette—that such of the Government officials as were desirous of going to England for purposes of education would be paid by the Government an amount enough to cover their expenses in England. Securing the stipend promised in this notice Mr. Syed Mahmud, a Deputy Inam Commissioner, proceeded to England some months ago. The next applicant for the privilege was a Hindu servant of the Government; but the powers-that-be have written to him to say that the Government had made up its mind to send no more officials to England for purposes of education. The reply is *characteristic* and proclaims the *impartiality* of the present Government, to be sure.

We are once more threatened with a "deluge" of libel suits. Judgment having been delivered in Gribble *vs.* Gallagher, on Wednesday last, Mr. Gallagher's counter-charge against Mr. Gribble comes on for hearing about the middle of January next. After that perhaps, Mr. Rudra will carry out his threat to take up Mr. Gallagher for "libel." Mr. Rudra threatens in a recent letter to the "Pioneer" "to have him" for all the caustic

paragraphs Mr. Gallagher has put in the "Standard." Not a whit daunted by this Mr. G. repeats that the statement, the contradiction to which made Mr. R so irate, "is perfectly untrue" —and says that Mr. R libels him in the letter as much as he (Mr. G) might be considered to have libelled Mr. Rudra in his paragraphs.

People at a distance can little understand how very indifferent the Government is as to show and where the money got out of the *rayyat* goes. A gentleman, a John Bull mind, came here about two years ago, armed with introductions no doubt, to raise subscriptions in aid of a school he meant to start somewhere in Switzerland for the benefit of the uncared-for Indian youths. He went about duly hat in hand. The Nizam's Government with its usual liberality and magnanimity paid him out of the Treasury 2,000 Halli Sicca Rupees to enable him to accomplish his object, and some noblemen helped him, I am told, to some extent. The "projector" was not satisfied with the money he got from the Government, so he applied for more, and got "in reply," I am informed, two first class railway fares to Bombay. That was no doubt a polite way of asking him to take himself off. But he took no notice of it, went about casting for an employment, and getting it, has been here since. What has become of the two thousand rupees paid out of the treasury, there is none so poor as to ask. It does not matter how the subscriptions, if any, got from the nobility have been spent, for it is a well-known fact that the Hyderabad noblemen have more money than they know what to do with, and they might as well pay towards meeting the daily necessaries of a Sahib.

The "Hyderabad Record" is bothered about knowing "what the local correspondent to the *Hindu* gains by spreading such rumours which (*sic*) are not only false but pure inventions and positively mischievous." The "Record's" solicitude in behalf of the present Government is increasing in volume day by day most amazingly. Under the circumstances it is not difficult to

understand the complacency with which he announces, what must bo news to all except himself, "that every statement in his (the "Hindu" correspondent's) sensational letter has been publicly contradicted," As far as I know—and I have been a regular and careful reader of the local papers—only 3 or 4 of my statements and these the least important ones have been contradicted in the most shaky way. But what have "they" to say about my statement *anent* the Anagondi case, the puppet minister and the minister *de facto*, the Nawab Mushtak Husain's application for retirement, the significant omissions in connection with the Treasury frauds cases, the Revenue Secretary's 'sympathy' with the *rayayatet hoc genus omne*? Echo answers, "What have they ?"

HYDERABAD, 27*th December* 1890.

The law that renders murder a bailable as well as compoundable "offence," and thus provides for a murderer's escape or places society at his mercy though for a while—is worthy only of the rulers of the Darkest Africa. Yet that is the law in vogue here where *Mulks* and *Dowlahs* lay claim to the susceptibilities and sentiments of the enlightened European, and big officials talk glibly and write in grandiloquent strains of the glories of enlightenment and civilization. And administered as it is by Judges who do do not even care to veneer over their partizan spirit, it becomes tantamount to an enactment to secure the safety of the person of a murderer. Where have you ever heard of a Judge, a Judge in his senses, enlarging a man accused of forgery on bail for *one lakh ofrupees* and one accused of murder on bail for *five thousand rupees*? Yet that is what has been done within the last few months by a *Daniel* of our City High Court. The Judge who released Abdul Wahid, chief of the accused in the murder case I referred to in former letters, on bail for a some—one twentieth of that demanded in the case of Balakrishen Doss charged with forgery—would seem to hold it justice still. This is only by the way. The murder case came up for hearing before Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan, Puisne Judge of the City High Court, last Tuesday. After taking all the evidence for the prosecution and hearing the confession of Abdul Rahman, Abdul Wahid's servant, read out, the Judge *miriable dictu* ordered for Wahid's being let out on bail for five thousand rupees. And when asked by the public prosecutor to reconsider his order, when it was pointed out to him that the bail demanded was out of all proportion to the gravity of the crime Wahid stood charged with, he indignantly replied, "he was not going to be taught his duty by the prosecutor." And it was as Judge doing his duty surely that he, on Tuesday last questioned a representative of the Press in Court as to his "authority" and looked nonplussed when asked whether he expected him—the representative —to carry his authority about his person wherever he went. Verily, verily, we living in this "God-governed country," are

fast coming to the days when justice will have fled to brutish beasts and Judges will have lost their reason.

The "Hyderabad Record" has an unusually trenchant article on this subject in his issue of the 24th Instant. The note of alarm he strikes in behalf of His Highness' subjects, "any one of whom may at some time or other have occasion to become a suitor for justice" in a case like the present one—has no uncertain ring about it And it is to be fervently hoped that it will "catch" the ears of His Highness the Nizam and the Resident who represents Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, the very impersonation of justice, at his Court. The "Record" expresses a hope that the blood-stained garments and letters found in the accused's house will "not share the fate of the bond in the "Forgery crse" which so mysteriously disappeared from the strong room, of the Court Registrar, a circumstance into which the police were prevented from making any investigation"—and is of opinion that "as matters stand at present, given a plastic Judge and an influential or wealthy criminal the administration of justice is not only a "toss up" as was lately stated in open Court by a well-known Barrister, for in every "toss-up" there is at least an element of chance, but a foregone conclusion."

I have been put in possession of a copy of the proceedings of the first of the Treasury frauds cases. A perusal of this must bring home to every one's mind the truth of every one of the statements made in my letter on the Hyderabad Treasury frauds. The order passed by the then Accountant-General, the Nawab Mukharrub Jung Bahadur, on the memo, submitted by Mr. Gya Pershad, runs thus:—"The auditing of the cheques, and the sole responsibility thereof relates to the audit (Branch) of the City, and the signature of the Deputy Accountant General should be made, after the Auditor has made his, for the sake of passing the cheques."

And the office order-book confirms it in these terms :—

"All cheques shall be prepared after auditing, on the sole responsibility of the City Branch, and they shall be passed after the signature of the Deputy Accountant-General."

In the face of this fact, Mr. Afzul Husain said in his judgment that the memo, had not been confirmed by the Nawab Mukhurrub Jung. In the latter part of the same judgment, Afzul Husain remarked : "He (Syed Ahmed one of the accused in the case) is not notorious like Jaya Rao for his misdemeanour" There was not a tittle of evidence before the Court to show that Jaya Rao was "notorious." When the pleader for the defence put Mr. Gya Persad, one of the witnesses, a question about Jaya Rao's behaviour as a subordinate, Mr. Afzul Husain himself disallowed it on the ground that the Government had no evidence to adduce against Jaya Rao's "general conduct." Yet we have this condemnation in the judgment. Then again, Syed Ahmed was let off because he had proved he had not participated in the money got by means of the fictitious cheques bearing his signature, and Jaya Rao was convicted because he had failed to show he had not received any portion of the money obtained by fraudulent means. The burden of proof, according to Afzul Husain, does not lie on the prosecution. Who has ever heard of the prosecution being allowed to restrict itself to formulating charges and the accused being compelled to prove the charges brought against them to be unfounded ? But who is to judge of our Moglai Judges ? They are privileged persons and their ways are not dreamt of in any philosophy in "the heavens above, the earth below, or the waters underneath."

You have, I believe, formed a clear idea of Afzul Husain's and Hafiz Ahmed Razakhan's "justice." I shall now illustrate briefly the method of administering justice which finds favour with two more Judges of the High Court, *viz.*, Ali Raza Khan and Ekbal Ali. A police Ameen and a police Jamadar were once convicted of corruption by the then First Taluqdhar of the Parbhani District and committed to the sessions. The sessions Judge let off one by reason of his respectability, and punished

the other. This was Ekbal Ali. Once about a dozen people stood charged with murder before a Judge of the same District. The Judge sentenced one of them to ten years' rigorous imprisonment on the strength of the evidence of two men who could depose to nothing beyond seeing him inside the house where murder had been committed at the time of murder. And this was Ali Raza Khan. You can well understand now, Mr. Editor, what a mockery justice often becomes, administered as it is by such men.

You will remember that in two of my letters I spoke of how the Nawab Mushtak Husain, Vicar-ul-Mulk, the Revenue Secretary, had ignored the most notorious facts furnished him regarding the administration of the Parbhani District. Now I learn from the columns of the Government organ—the "Deccan Standard"—that the First Taluqdhar of the Parbhani District the official responsible for the administration of it, has been suspended "recently" on account of charges of corruption brought against him. It would be interesting to know to what recent date the word *recently* refers. Besides this, there are some questions which need to be answered and could be answered only by those behind the scenes. The first official report of the Taluqdhar's crooked ways reached the Revenue Secretary, I am informed, about four years ago. What has the Revenue Secretary been doing these four years? Has it taken him four years to find out the desirability of suspending the offending official? Or has he been mum until he could no longer be so? Why did the Nawab Mushtak Husain oppose the appointment of the man, now under suspension, to the first Talukdharship of Nalgonda in the Eastern division while Subhadar thereof? And was it not through the Nawab's instrumentality that he received an order of transfer to Parbhani, an out-of-the-way place, even before he could join his appointment at Nalgonda? Will any one come forward to answer these questions?

HYDERABAD, *3rd January*, 1891.

The procedure adopted by Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan in the trial of the murder case may well make the civilized world "gasp and stare," and set the peace-loving Hydrabadee thinking as to whether his life and property are safe within the Moglai limits even in this century and within sight of the British flag. A man may lay himself open to the charge of having committed any mortal offence, may even commit murder, secure from the terrors of justice—provided he be influential. Or rather, as a gentleman put it the other day:—"Of what use is a man's respectability in Hyderabad if he cannot set law at defiance with impunity?" This is perhaps hard judging, but it is warranted by the information that comes to me from a trustworthy quarter about the City murder case. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan has "made out" an order for the release of two of the accused, *viz.*, Abdul Wahid the pleader, and Wazeeran, the decoy; and the order will be enforced when the case comes up for hearing next, *i. e.*, on Saturday, the 10th instant. And his reasons are many forsooth. The *jatka* in which the murdered woman was taken into the city having stopped some way from the scene of murder it could not be presumed from the driver's evidence that Abdul Wahid accompanied the deceased thereto. One of the two letters found in Abdool Husain's house goes to show that for sometime before the murder Abdul Wahid and Abdool Husain were not on good terms; and so Abdool Husain's statements could not with reason be made to incriminate Abdul Wahid. Abdul Rahman, Abdul Wahid's servant, being an accomplice could not be expected to speak the truth about his master. And the evidence of the murdered woman's daughter is worth nothing as she might have been "tutored" into giving it by the Police. So our City Judge disposes of such evidence as he cared to take notice of against Abdul Wahid, and orders his release. Besides, he is of opinion that the Police trumped up this case against the brother of the Crown Prosecutor in the Treasury Frauds Cases to please some friends, and recommends the dismissal of the

Police Prosecutor. All this is no do doubt demanded by prudential considerations. But then whether it is reason or justice the people are free to ask. In one of the two letters before the Court, there is a threat, I am credibly informed, on the part of Abdul Wahid to lay a trap, for Abdool Husain and the murdered woman. Why was this slurred over? Why was it that the clothes said to be blood-stained were not submitted to a chemical examination? Why was not the Police Vakeel permitted to put in 'more evidence'? Why was the Police Commissioner hurried on to bring up the case before the court? Why was it that within three days two *Roobkars* were issued to him to bring up the case "at once"? And how is this hurry to be reconciled to the delay caused by the granting of long adjournments? These are some of the many questions that suggest themselves to all unprejudiced men who cannot bring themselves to believe in the innocence of the man who had the barefacedness to tell the Nawab Akbar Jung Bahadur in the presence of Messrs. Aiengar, Gilder and Fox; "write to the Judge a *Roobkar* and secure from him my pardon, and I shall make a clean breast of the whole affair." The Police and their *Vakeel* have, it is admitted on all hands, done all that they ought to have. For this the Police head is in for an unwarranted and damaging imputation and the Police Vakeel has deserved dismissal. This is how the ends of justice are accomplished here.

I hear that Bishop Thoburn has written to the Rev. Mr. Gilder, of the Chadarghat Methodist Episcopal Church, to ask him not to identify himself in any way with the prosecution in the murder case. I hope, this is not true. If true, there is little chance of all the murderers getting their due. Being left without funds Sadullah, the husband of the murdered woman, will not be able to appeal against Ahmed Raza Khan's decision or do anything by way of getting justice meted out to the criminals. And the impression that justice is a costly commodity and the poor cannot get it, will find another confirmation

I have so often referred in these columns to the way in which those obnoxious to the party in power are sent to jail or degraded or dismissed or otherwise punished, that I feel I should not ask you, for some time to come at least, for space for further information on the head. Yet I cannot see my way out of mentioning a fact that was pointed out to me the other day *in re* the Treasury Frauds Cases. Jaya Rao is in prison now for countersigning 14 fictitious cheques, while the man whose duty it was to sign cheques after looking into them carefully and who signed these 14 cheques in the first instance is to be *promoted*. How would you characterise such justice Mr. Editor?

The local "Hindu Social Club" seem to be a little bit put out by a paragraph in one of my letters, with regard to the "Deccan Punch's" attack on the Raja Murli Manohur Bahadur. They think, I am told, that I have "compromised" the "Club" by my remarks in this connection. I mentioned what I knew for a fact, and what I said but tended to show that personally the Raja had no grievance to air forth against the Government and no reason to join the cry of "injustice to the Hindus." How this could be compromising, I am at a loss to understand. We do not guage the condition of a people from the condition of one individual; nor can we judge of the treatment accorded to a class from that given to one of its members. This being so, how can any man think that because the Raja Murli Manohur has personally no grievances against the Government, therefore the whole Hindu community has no grievances against it?

A recent issue of the "Deccan Punch" has a significant cartoon on the subject of the murder case. It represents Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan as putting in one pan of the scale of justice a weight too small to balance the other pan with "the box of crime" in it, and Mr. Punch addressing the Judge thus: "Put in more weight, Sir."

You will be glad to hear that in the Rev. Mr. Gilder of the Chadarghat Methodist Episcopal Church we have got a well-

wisher of the Indian National Congress movement. Alluding to the "Pioneer's" article on "Missionaries and Politics" he writes thus to me:—

"With reference to "Missionaries and Politics" I believe every Christian Missionary in India ought to be in the vanguard in all things relating to the social or politico-social as well as moral advancement of the people. There are politics and politics; and inasmuch as in many of the political reforms called for to-day, there are bound up many and weighty social problems which demand a satisfactory solution in the interests of the people of India and which when solved will expedite political reforms, I am of opinion that Missionaries are not guilty of meddling in matters beyond their concern when they extend practical sympathy to the National Congress. My own sympathies are very largely with the Congress."

The statement that is going the rounds of the Indian Press that the Nawab Framuz Jung Bahadur is the first Parsi Nawab is not correct. Hyderabad has had two Parsi Nawabs, *viz.*, Nadir Jung and Rustam Jung before Framjee's time. As for the third Nawab himself, though it is whispered in certain circles that he got his title through some back-door influence yet it is admitted that he had better claims to it than any other Parsi in the State.

The "interesting information" furnished by the "Staffordshire Chronicle" about "the Mahomedan rule of Hyderabad-Deccan," to which reference is made by your London correspondent in his letter of the 12th ultimo, is news to us one and all. Would that our young ruler were put in the way of evincing so much interest in the welfare of his subjects as to confer "the franchise on certain classes!" Then, knee-crooking would not do duty for efficiency and criminality would not be allowed to go unpunished because of influence acquired by hook or crook.

HYDERABAD, *10th January*, 1891.

Mr. Syed Ahmed Raza Khan has proved himself a good hand at special pleading. His order for the discharge of two of the accused in the City murder case has been published in the local papers since my last writing to you. And those incredulous people who might not have believed the information I placed before your readers about the murder case, could see for themselves now that I did not invent things to cause "mischief." As for the order itself, any one with a modicum of common sense could read between the lines of it a desperate attempt to exculpate Abdul Wahid fully. When the man who had driven the murdered woman to the scene of murder—or rather to within a short distance of it, confessed in court to being able to identify the man that had accompanied the *jutka*, Ahmed Raza Khan bade the *Nazir* of the Court and two *chaprasees* to take him through the streets of the City and ask him to point out every one of those he had ever driven in his *jutka*. This declares the spirit in which the trial, so far as Abdul Wahid was concerned, was conducted—and this is the spirit which characterises the order. If there were little evidence to incriminate Abdul Wahid, there was less against Wazeeran the decoy. Yet Abdul Wahid has been at large on bail for several days now, while Wazeeran is still in police custody. How is this to be accounted for? No application was ever made in Court for Abdul Wahid's being admitted to bail, and unless we believe a statement made by a local paper that Abdul Kader, Wahid's brother, had had a private interview with the Judge just before the proceedings of the case began and had not only applied but arranged for his being released on bail, no application was ever made even out of Court. If Wahid could be let off on bail in the absence of an application put in for it, why was not Wazeeran dealt with similarly? Referring to the evidence given by the murdered woman's daughter, Ahmed Raza Khan says that those (meaning the police,) who are adepts at tutoring grown-up people could easily get a little girl say what they

want. This suggestion, so to say, in the face of the well-known fact that it is not so easy to tutor little children as to instruct grown-up people so that they may not contradict themselves in their evidence—proclaims the determination to see a loophole even where there is none for the accused to escape by. It is said that the stains on the clothes held to be blood-stained by the prosecution might have been due to mosquito and bug blood and that there are hundreds of such clothes to be found in Hyderabad! Why were not some of these "hundreds" obtained and compared with the clothes said to be blood-stanied? Seeing that the stains on one of the sherwani sleeves resembled the converse of the Arabic figure 7000, the Judge concluded that they were due to red ink. Was it ascertained in Court whether Wahid knew Arabic figures and whether he had been in the habit of using them? And was it asked what the occasion for the writing of 7000 had been? No—and why not? A Judge who could go out of his way to cross-question in behalf of the accused might have very well enlightened himself on these points. This coupled with the fact that the clothes were not submitted to a chemical examination, tells its own tale. Then we are told in the order that one of the letters found by the Police in Abool Husain's house speaks of *Mumthiaz* and not of *Imthiaz*, the name of the murdered woman, and consequently there is nothing to show that Wahid and Abool Hussain had fallen out on account of the deceased. If Wahid Ali in whose name the box holding the corpse of the murdered woman was consigned at the Hyderabad Railway station proved to be Abdul Wahid, is it difficult to believe, I ask, taking all the circumstances into consideration, that *Imthiaz* and *Mumthiaz* were one and the same?

Ahmed Raza Khan in a long preamble to the order, above referred to, holds up the procedure in vogue here, which admits an accused person to bail pending the confirmation by a Divisional Bench of the High Court of the order for discharge made out by the Judge in the first instance—for the information of the

Supreme Government. It is bad enough to have eyes and yet not to see. But it is worse to be blind or to blind oneself and expect every one else to be in the same miserable plight. If the accused is innocent as made out to be by the Judge in the first instance, then he need not fear the decision of the Divisional Bench and abscond. But if he is guilty and has reasons to fear that what was slurred over by the Judge might be taken notice of by the Divisional Bench and used against him, what guarantee is there that he will not abscond and thus cheat justice with a sop to Cerberus ?

The collapse of the second of the Treasury Frauds cases has been announced. Mr. Badrudeen Tyabji is reported to have written to the Government to say there was no case against the accused in the case, and consequently those in costody in connection with it have been released. Patent as it has been to many men here, Afzul Husain could not or did not choose to see "there was no case" when he committed "the grave error' of summoning the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung and the Raja Srinivas Rao as being among the accused. Will the Government or rather the party in power notice this ? If it be true that they are "innocent" of all connection with the prosecution in the case, they ought to take notice of this, and teach a lesson to the man who could wantonly heap indignities on high officials in the State. Just think of a man being hanled up before a Crurt or taken into custody on the strength of mere suspicion of his official conduct! Think of the first Treasury Frauds case in which people were sent to jail on the flimsiest grounds, and a man figured as an accused by reason of his having had a seat in the Accountant General's Office within sight of that of the man who forged signatures and you have an idea of the pass we have come to in Hyderabad, in the premier Native State in India!

Information comes to me of the issue of two incorrect cheques by the Officiating Accountant General within the last few days. Ali Abdullah, in charge of His Highness's Studs'

Department, goes every year to Malagam fair with a view to buy horses for His Highness's stables. As usual he wanted Rs. 15,000 for the purpose this year. The Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk, the Revenue Secretary—who evidently holds a *carte blanche* from H. E. the Minister to arrogate to himself the functions of any office in the State—issued, in defiance of all rules andlregulations, instruction to the Taluqdhar of the District in which Malagam lies to supply Mr. Ali Abdullah with funds to the extent of Rs. 15,000 and forwarded a copy of the same to the Accountant General to apprise him of it. The Accountant General, the clever official and loyal henchman that he is, cared not to read through the copy and understand it, but issued two cheques to the value of Rs. 15,000 to the Revenue Secretariat. This gives you, Mr. Editor, an idea of the quality of the work turned out by many if not most highly paid servants of His Highness.'

Subscriptions in aid of the movement to spread Mahomedanism in England are coming in apace. The Nawab Vicar-ul-Umrah has given Rs. 5,000, the Nawab Vicar-ul-Mulk Rs. 1,000 —and the amount already collected is likely to amount to a big sum very soon. A portion of the sum raised will be spent, I am informed, in sending some Mahomedans to England to preach the Koran—and Moulvie Hassin Ali of whom you have all heard so much will not be the least of them. An attempt to convert the followers of the meek Christ to the 'Religion af the sword' at the fag end of the Nineteenth Century savours rather of the ridiculous.

We shall soom have a Unani Dispensary under the management of Hakeem Syed Ahmed who "chopped logic" not long since with Dr. Laurie on the subject of Chloroform. The Nizam's Government has, it is stated, sanctioned a monthly grant of Rs. 2,000 for the establishment in connection with it.

HYDERABAD, *17th January, 1891.*

The beginning of the end of the case against the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung and the Raja Srinivas Rao has been heralded by the announcement that the Government will inquire into it departmentally. And now it may not be amiss to place before your readers the *denouement* of the "plot" of the case. The character who is the first to appear on the stage, is a gentleman by name Munover Khan. His swagger bespeaks his influence; and his being officiating Accountant-General without knowing any more of accounts than I or you know of navigation, shows he is in luck's way. He advances to the individual yclept Government, and states with low bow that he has discovered some frauds in his office in which such men as Hassan Bin Abdulla and Srinivas Rao are concerned. The Government is all joy. *It* summons all its "faithfuls" to a solemn conclave and assured of the political enemies' guilt, settles to appoint Ekbal Ali in place of Hassan Bin Abdulla and Mahomed Ali to fill the vacancy created by the dismissal of Srinivasa Rao—and (if a rumour is to be believed) does not forget to send word to Mr. Fred. Gordon to keep three rooms ready for the reception of the enemies in Chenchulgooda jail. This closes the first act. Then Justice Afzul Husain appears dressed in authority and issues summons calling upon the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung (as well as others) to appear before him within 18 hours of its being served to answer such a serious charge as abetment of forgery and criminal misappropriation. The Nawab applies to the Minister for the postponement of the trial. And the Minister accedes to the Nawab's request and appoints a Commission of two of the Judges of the High Court, presided over by Afzul Husain, to try him and others concerned in the case. Shortly after this he is asked by the Government to submit an explanation departmentally. The explanation furnished being considered unsatisfactory, the Commission is asked to begin business. Then comes the appointment of Mr. Budrudin Tyabjee of the Bombay Bar as Government Prosecutor. Whether it is true or not that

Mr. Badrudin after a careful study of the evidence placed before him, wrote to the Government to say there was no case against Hasain Bin Abdulla and others, this is a fact that a number of gentlemen headed by the mighty ones met at the house of one of the legal luminaries here with a view to find out if any case could be bolstered up against them. At this meeting a number of the witnesses for the prosecution were called. And the "unconquerable" will one of these who is a Jamedar of the Irregular Troops interposed, I am credibly informed, insurmountable obstacles are in the way of the accomplishment of the object with which the politicals met. The noble resolve on the part of this witness to speak the truth and nothing but the truth elicited a threat from the legal luminary. And when told he was an officer of the Government and as such he was bound to carry out its instructions, he is said to have stood on his knees his hand resting on his sword and told the men assemblod that his life as being that of a soldier's was the Government's but his honor was his own—and to have left the meeting. This failure to trump up a case resulted in a *Roobkar* from the Home Secretariat, closing proceedings in a manner calculated not to evoke much hostile criticism. In the *Roobkar* issued shortly after Hasain Bin Abdulla's submitting an explanation departmentally it was stated that the explanation being of an unsatisfactory character the Commission appointed to inquire into the case would set to work. And although not even a tittle of addition has been made to the explanation above referrad to, yet we are told in another *Roobkar* that the explanation is still under the consideration of the Minister and the commission will postpone its sittings until further orders.

I have been put in possession of the real facts of this case. What decision the Government may come to, the inscrutability of its ways makes it impossible for any one to say. But this much can be said that no sane man can see any guilt in the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung with the facts before him. Two things are clear from the evidence before me. The one is that

no fraud was committed, and the other is that no motive for a fraud does exist. Alum Ali Khan is paid for the maintenance of his troops stationed in five districts, from the District and Central Treasuries. A certain sum paid to him from the District Treasuries and not deducted from that owing to him in the District Accounts, was overdeducted by the Central Accounts Branch. Thus though mistakes were committed yet the result turned out to be what it ought to be. This the gentleman who congratulated himself on having discovered frauds and hastened to turn his discovery to account was too blind to see. Now as to the so-called motive for a fraud : it is inferred by the Government from the fact of the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung's having sold his house "which was ultimately sold for Rs. 26,000 and which is really of that value to Alum Ali Khan for Rs. 45,000. The house according to the valuation of four professional men, is worth over Rs. 62,000 and that it was not "ultimately sold for Rs. 26,000" as stated by the Government plaint but for Rs. 45,000 is proved by a letter addressed to the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung by Alum Ali Khan. And no portion of the purchase money was allowed to be appropriated by any one by the Nawab. These facts speak for themselves.

Jaya Rao has been acquitted. The Judges of the High Court who heard his appeal against the decision of Afzul Husain have reversed the sentence of the Lower Court. And to Mr. Norton, of the Madras Bar, is due the credit of having secured this. I commend Mr. Norton's able defence to the notice of those here who looked unutterable thoughtfulness when my letters commenting upon Afzul Husain's judgment appeared. They will now see that I was not fighting with shadows, that I evolved nothing out of my inner consciousness, that I but noticed what must be palpable to every one who is not born blind.

My attention has just been drawn to "A Member's" letter about "the Hindu Social Club" here. The letter is at best a sorry attempt to prove that I have "compromised the position

of the Club." "I had not supplied myself with the full information before I wrote about the memorial, and what I stated was against actual facts," I am told, and am expected to believe this in spite of myself. I had spoken to the Raja Murli Monohur Bahadur on the subject of the scholarship question sometime before the "Club" members thought of drawing up a memorial about it, in the presence of one or two members of the Club. The Raja told us there was no need for memorializing and tried his best to convince us that the Government would throw the scholarships open to all irrespective of caste or creed. And the list of those allowed to sit for the competitive examination held long before the Club's memorial was ready showed what strong reasons the Raja had had for telling us that the Government would throw the scholarships open to all. I could not for the life of me understand "what more consistent way of defence" I could have found than stating the plain truth.

HYDERABAD, *24th January, 1891.*

As promised in a recent letter of mine I shall let you know how a gentleman who has the misfortune to be independent-spirited and to have the courage of his convictions, has been and is being persecuted here. The gentleman I refer to is no other than Mr. A. C. Rudra, Barrister-at-law. He set foot on this soil about two years ago—and he has been a marked man since. The success that greeted him on all sides at the outset and the petty persecution and social "boycotting" that followed it close on its heels, the treatment he has received from the Moglai officialdom ranging from utmost warmth to utmost frigidity, from petting to persecution: these show how very difficult it is for a self-respecting man to pull on well where factions reign supreme, that sycophancy and time-serving alone can constitute the secret of success in a place where men in power are such as are bent upon self-aggrandisement. Mr. Rudra was received with open arms by every one here at the beginning. How he was shaken by the hand by the official "silk gloves," how Mehdi Hassan "chaperoned" him into the favour of the officialdom, how he in his enthusiastic admiration proposed Mr. Rudra to a membership of the Nizam Club and how the Joint-Secretary of the Club seconded the proposal—all Hyderabad knows And how all this favour and friendship turned into antagonistic factors—is equally well known. About the same time that he got into the Nizam Club, Mr. Rudra accepted the correspondentship of the "Pioneer"—and then began his troubles. As the local representative of the "Pioneer" he was not going to act the apologist of the vagaries and the wrong-doing of the officials or their hangers on. In his telegrams to the "Pioneer" which appeared in its issues of November and December 1889, he evinced a spirit of independence and a determination to echo the people's voice at any cost which well-nigh took away the beath of his official friends and admirers. They saw what stuff he was made of, but thought that time would change him and convert him into a blower of their trumpets. They thought wrong—Mr. Rudra's independence

did not flag. He persisted in his cause with the result that his "friends" dropped off one after another. And by accepting a brief from the British officers concerned in the famous Sowar Case, he made himself "thoroughly" obnoxious to all in any way connected with the Government. Then came the declaration of "war." It was held, by the powers-that-be, a crime deserving of exemplary punishment for any official to be on any good understanding with Mr. Rudra. And it was in accordance with this unwritten order that such of the officials as responded to the invitations issued by Messrs. Rudra. Gribble and Syed All for a pic-nic at Golconda—one of the social events of last year—got what is officially known as the *khanji* wink and Messrs. Syed Ali and Gribble who were associated with "the offender" fared worse at the hands of the "Government." The "sinners" repented and were restored to favour, but Mr. Rudra stood recalcitrant—to suffer. Many methods have since been employed to cow him down and crush him. First in order came his "boycotting," from the Nizam's Club. The incidents connected with this are among the most remarkable in the annals of social life here. A challenge regarding his eligibility to membership of the Club made by a member on the 7th December 1889, and deemed "unfit for notice" at the time—was "entertained against Mr. Rudra on the 11th October, 1890, by the Secretary of the Club—the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung. A rule which "refers to certain nationalities and not to the individual religious beliefs of those falling under the nationalities" was misinterpreted so as to operate against him. And he was turned out of the Club. This was followed by attempts to make this place too hot for him. Finding it difficult to get a house to live in, because of the *khanji* wink, he took shelter under the roof of a friend. Even here he was not left in peace. A distinguished official of the State had sworn to see him out of the friend's house. And the following conversation between the official and the friend reveals what unscrupulous men we have holding sway here now and to what depths they can descend to infuse terror into those who dare to be independent.

Official.—"I say, my friend the Nawab—spoke to me about Rudra last night. He said he was stopping with you. Is it true?"

Friend.—"Yes. The poor fellow could not get a house. So I put him up with me, and mean to do so until he gets a house."

Official.—"You had better get rid of him as soon as you can. The *Sirkar* is very angry with you. The Nawab told me that either you must drop Rudra or I must drop you. If you keep him long with you, it will be a sad look-out for you."

Friend.—"But how can I ask him to leave before he gets a house?"

Official.—"How I can't say. But the Nawab told me that Rudra is a rebel (*Bagi*) and anybody that associates with him will be regarded as a rebel. That is the *Sirkar's* opinion, and we shall do well to respect it."

As the result of this conversation, Mr. Rudra found himself within twenty-four hours of its taking place, occupying a house, the possession of which was soon to be claimed by a certain "would-be" tenant. While "knocking about" in this manner, Mr. Rudra was hauled over the coals for his remarks about the administration of justice in the Hyderabad Court in connection with Gribble *versus* Gallagher. I have seen the correspondence that has passed between the High Court and Mr. Rudra on this matter, and I find reason to believe that Mr. Rudra's position is unassailable and so I hope the High Court will be prudent enough to accept the explanation tendered by Mr. Rudra and be done with the ugly affair. You have not heard as yet Mr. Editor—the last of the persecution. A high official of the State paid a visit recently to the head office of the "Indian Thunderer." What passed between him and the Editor-in-chief, no one knows, but there is good reason for believing that the official's visit has not been altogether unsuccessful. It is reported that Mr. Rudra and his Editor differed in opinion on a matter of

considerable importance to the State, and this difference has resulted in the non-appearance of Hyderabad telegrams in the columns of the paper. Here ends for the present the history of the persecution.

The above is not the only instance in which a man has suffered for his independence in Hyderabad. Dozens of such instances have come to my knowledge—and I may have occasion to refer to some at least of them in future letters.

I was in Court last Thursday to hear the City murder case and was glad to notice that the High Court had perceived the desirability of providing representatives of the Press with seats. Very little of evidence taking was done because of the absence of several witnesses. And the case was adjourned to 12 o'clock to-day. Now that Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan has brought himself to consent to admit further evidence against all the accused, I hope that evidence will be put in to prove that the murdered woman was known as *Mumthiaz* as well as *Imthiaz*, and the Judge will be pressed to send for Abdul Wahid's answer papers in the Pleadership examination in order that the prosecution might prove the letters found in Aboo Husan's house to be in Wahid's handwriting.

I have a few nuts for the apologists of the present Government to crack. Why and by whose authority was Syed Ahmed's pay stopped by the Accountant-General for a period of about two months after the decision of Jaya Rao's case? At whose intercession and according to whose orders was it paid to him? On what ground was it again stopped to be again paid in a lump sum? And why has it been notified to a poor clerk, by name Kareemuddeen, in the Accountant-General's Office, that in case he does not try and get himself transferred to some other Department he will be dismissed from the service?

The Hyderabad Record reports a curious case of miscarriage of justice in one of the City courts. A man stands accused of

having thrashed another to such an extent as to loosen two of his teeth, before a Magistrate. The Magistrate goes through the evidence put before him, convicts the accused and sentences him to a certain punishment. The accused appeals. The Appellate Court sends one of the teeth which has fallen off since the decision of the Lower Court to a *Hakim* for examination. The *Hakim* deposes to its not being a human tooth—with the result that the Court not only reverses the judgment of the lower Court but sentences the complainant to a year's imprisonment for perjury. This is *Hyderabad Justice.*

Hydebabad, *31st January, 1891.*

The City murder case has come to a close. Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan delivered judgment last Thursday, acquitting Abdul Wahid, Abdul Rahman and Ameeran on all the charges and sentencing Abool Husain to seven years' rigorous imprisonment not for murder or abetment of murder, but for doing away with the evidence of the commission of the crime. After all that I have stated in former letters as to the manner in which the trial has been conducted, I need hardly tell you that the judgment, bearing as it does a clear impress of miscarriage of justice, has caused no surprise here.

The last issue of a local paper makes mention of a rumour that has been going the round for sometime past, in connection with the murder case. Some one connected with the defence seems to have made up his mind to teach a lesson to people disposed to be as meddlesome as the Rev. Mr. Gilder, of the Chadarghat Methodist Episcopal Church, but for whom the murder might have gone the way of many cases of equal importance—and offered a Rohilla in the City a sum of Rs. 500 with a view to induce him to assassinate the Reverend gentleman. The Rohilla proved the wrong person to be trusted with an offer of this sort. Being a recipient of many kindnesses at the hands af some Punjab missionaries, he did not feel up to spilling the blood of a missionary—and so he straightway carried the news to Mr. Gilder. Mr. Gilder communicated with the Residency authorities and got a few policemen to keep guard round his house. This precaution withal, some ruffians, who are said to have closed with the offer, that the Rohilla had declined so gracefully, approached the house on a night and had to beat a hasty retreat because of the alarm raised by the police on guard. So runs the rumour. And it is, I am in a position to say, not without a foundation.

The dismissal of Chella Rama Row in connection with the second of the Treasury Frauds Cases is worth noticing as giving

one an idea as to the arbitrary way in which things are done here under the present *regime*. The Raja Srinivas Row had, while submitting the statement of claims of the Nawab Alam Ali Khan for Rs. 1,45,000 wrote to ask the Accountant-General if the statement was correct. And a reply was sent to this from the Accountant-General's Office. At the time that the discovery (!) was made of frauds by Mr. Manover Khan, it was found that one of the lines of this reply had been erased out and a new one substituted instead. An inquiry was set on foot as regards the "authorship" of this erasure and substitution. And one Balakishen came forward and said that he *thought* that the line substituted was in Chella Rama Rao's handwriting. This was enough to include Chella Rama Rao's name in the list of the accused in the second case. Justice Afzul Husain examined Rama Rao and finding no evidence to confirm Mr. Balakishen's "thought" acquitted him. The acquittal notwithstanding, Rama Rao has "deserved" dismissal from the service.

What has become of the case of the Taluqdhar of Parbhani? When political opponents are concerned, justice is busy trumping up charges, cooking up evidence and 'punishing' offences in anticipation of conviction. At other times it "sleepeth." Here is a man—I mean the Taluqdar of Parbhani—who stands charged with many crimes (committed during the last four years) by men who are in a position to bring home to him all their charges. Yet the Government looks away from him until its attention is forced towards him, then suspends him and troubles itself about him no more. Why? Is it that, being a creature of the Nawab Busheerud-Dowlah's, he deserves to be spared all the disgrace and annoyance of a trial that innocent men, that men known to be innocent, have been subjected to? Is it that the mighty Nawab who opposed the "Taluqdhar's" appointment to the first Taluqdharship of Nalganda about four years ago, on unassailable grounds to be sure, has since come to think differently or finds reason to safeguard the interest of the man? We have heard of no charges being framed against him. No commission has been

appointed, no Judge nominated to try him. Why? Why have *they* not instituted even a sham judicial inquiry as they have done in several cases?

Jaya Rao is a most unfortunate man. In sooth the Gods are against him. He was clapt into jail without any reason. He abode for a while in the prison house for a crime that existed only in the fertile imagination of his political enemies. He appealed—and the Appellate Court acquitted him. But in spite of the acquittal he found himself detained in prison for two days. Who is responsible for this illegal confinement, many have asked, and have been furnished with an answer by the kindness of Mr. J. D. B. Gribble. The day after Jaya Rao's acquittal Mr. Gribble went over to the Chenchulgooda jail and demanded of the Superintendent his client's release. Being informed that no order of acquittal had been received he went over to the High Court and saw an order made out for Jaya Rao's release—and then paid a visit to the Secretary of the Commission with a view to find out if any order had been passed for Jaya Rao's detention in jail. Finding that no such order had been passed, Mr. Gribble told the Secretary: "In that case as soon as the order of acquittal reaches the jail, Jaya Rao can be set at liberty." "No," said the Secretary, "because at the same time I shall send a new order directing his further confinement." "If you do so" said Mr. Gribble, "without the express authority of the Commission you will do so on your own responsibility, and I warn you that I will advise Jaya Rao, to bring an action for illegal confinement against you." "Oh! I shall be protected" was the answer.

I find that "A member" of "the Hindu Social Club" is again to the front with "a defence." Verily he "protests too much." Though this might make wicked people look suspicious, yet his saying "a word or two" "now that his short and concise letter has been leaned upon as a tower (what is the height of it, I wonder) of strength" by me, is creditable. But my facts are facts—though I am profoundly sorry for "A member's" sake

that they are so. While I am glad to be reminded "that is not a bad inference to make" (though I am at a loss to know wherefrom) "that other people besides myself possess truth-discerning faculties,"—I must ask "A member" to let me know whether questioning the truth of one statement without rhyme or reason and insinuating motive in terms such as "the truth is, having chosen a way, he wants to maintain it"—is or is not calling "him or his argument names." I should like to know if "A member" holds a brief from the Club to defend the "position" thereof. If so, I, as a member in common with other members, should ask him to produce his credentials for posing as the aggrieved or rather "the compromised" in behalf of the Club.

I had an interview with Mr. Badrudin Tyabji of the Bombay Bar, now here, sometime ago. Being taken up with other matters, I could not refer to it before this. Mr. Badrudin had little to say about Hyderabad and its affairs not being able to devote, as he said, any attention to such 'studies.' But he was anxious to express himself freely and clearly as regards the Congress question. He said that though he did not look with favour upon such extravagant demands as those embodied in the "Madras scheme" yet he was as great a sympathiser of the national movement to-day as he had been when presiding at the Madras meeting of the Congress. If he did not take part in the proceedings for some years, it was because the "Anjumani Islam" of Bombay, of which he was President, was against his doing so. And as he knew that he could do a lot of good to the Bombay Moslem community by being in touch with it and that the Congress could get on without him while "the Islam" could not, he kept aloof though he was at heart a great sympathiser.

Hyderabad, *7th February, 1891.*

Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan, has, I am informed, recommended the children of the murdered woman in the City murder case for *munsabs* to the Government. And the recommendation is likely to receive favourable consideration at the hands of the powers-that-be. I may here remark that an appeal to mercy stands a greater chance of being heard by them than an appeal to justice. 'How is this?' you may ask. The former tickles their vanity, makes them look noble and magnanimous; while the latter almost always contemplates the defeat of their cherished objects. The recommendation is no doubt meant to compensate the deceased's husband for the loss of his wife—for the miscarriage of justice which has left him powerless to avenge the brutal murder. For this the man ought certainly to feel thankful—for if poeple elsewhere are thankful for small mercies, we in Hyderabad have to feel thankful for still smaller ones.

Ekbal Ali, one of the Judges of the City High Court has resigned and will shortly proceed to take up a Sub-judgeship in the North-Western Provinces. Poeple have been speculating as to who will succeed him on the bench—and some have gone even the length of pointing out the desirability of appointing a Hindu to the vacancy, Mr. Hukum Chand, for instance. But I have reasons to believe the vacancy will not be filled with a Hindu, nor will it be filled at all until "a favourite" turns up on the scene.

And still they come—instances of favouritims extraordinary. A man in the Accontant-General's Office fails 'to object' to a payment falling short of the amount claimed by about two annas. And for this he is fined. Compare this with the action taken or rather the inaction shown in the case of a favourite who was connected with the issue of a cheque for Rs. 50 by way of pension to the daughter of a late relative of his. A person in charge of the mint for a long time, died leaving three sons and two daughters. And the "paternal" Government ordered, in con-

sideration of the deceased's services, that each of the sons should be given a *munsab* of Rs. 50 until he is 21 years old—for purposes of education. The eldest of these three brothers having since entitled himself by competitive examination to a Government scholarship, the favourite above referred to thought he could of his own accord transfer one of the *munsabs* to one of the daughters—and accordingly issued the cheque of Rs. 50. Somehow or other the Political and Financial Secretary's Office came to know of this and immediately apprised the man of his mistake and thus prevented the cheque being cashed. Why was not the man brought to book for illegally issuing the cheque?

They—I mean the rulers *de facto*—refused to furnish the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung with copies of papers relating to the two inquiries held in connection with the so-called second Treasury Frauds Case—one by the Revenue Secretary, and the other by the Accountant-General's Office. The Nawab insisted on copies being supplied to him, and a lengthy correspondence passed between him and his 'inquirers' with the result that the Minister ruled that as both these inquiries were of a confidential nature copies of papers relating to them could not be given. What do you think of this ruling, Mr. Editor? Have you ever heard of anything so extraordinary as this? A highly-placed individual finds himself all of a sudden charged with having committed "frauds." Two inquiries are held in connection with this. And when the accused applies for copies of papers concerning them he is told he cannot have them as the inquiries were confidential. Were these inquiries "confidential" in the sense that they but revealed the utter baselessness of the charges brought against the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung, the Rajah Srinivas Rao and others? Or were they "confidential" because they were meant only to find out how far the position of the accused was tenable?

The commission brought into existence to inquire into the second Treasury Frauds Case, was empowered only to report on

the case—and had no judicial status whatsoever. How came it then I ask that it ordered into jail many of the accused in the case?

According to an order of the Government a general parade of His Highness the Nizam,s troops was to have been held at Golconda yesterday. Almost all the commanding officers with their respective regiments had assembled at the appointed place and had been in harness for several hours when a Government order reached them countermanding the original one.

HYDERABAD, *14th February 1891.*

Those that think that public opinion will carry any weight with the party in power on the matter of the appointment of a Hindu in place of Mr. Ekbal Ali on the High Court Bench, are very much mistaken. "The vacancy will not be filled with a Hindu, nor will it be filled at all until a favorite turns up on the scene," I said in my last letter. And we have a confirmation of it in the following terms in the *Deccan Standard:* "H. E. the Minister is, we are confident, fully alive to the advantages of securing a Hindu Judge for the High Court. But as far as we have been able to gather, it is possible that no one will be appointed to succeed Mr. Justice Ekbal Ali, as it is thought that the High Court is already strong enough." Of what earthly use is His Excellency's being "fully alive to the advantages of securing a Hindu Judge" if he is fully determined upon not securing the advantages—is more than any one can understand. Perhaps in the case of a person of His Excellency's exalted position—guarded too as it is by recent creations of *Mulks*, *Dowlas* and *Jungs*—we have to take good intentions for good deeds and be thankful. In that case the intentions need only to be advertised by the Government organ. How and when the discovery was made that "the High Court Bench is already strong enough" and what would become of the discovery when a favourite turns up—I wish to be informed.

"We have no naturalisation law in Hyderabad" we are told by an apologist of the present administration. In what sense then is it that sons and nephews of many of the aliens in the service who were not born here, are Hyderabadees?

I have more than once told in these columns the "tale" of the degradation and misery that the Raja Sahib of Anagondi has been subjected to by those in power now. That the Raja Sahib came to be all of a sudden burdened with a *peishkush* of about Rs. 10,000, that he appealed against the unjust and unprecedented imposition, that a Taluqdhar and an Inspector-

General individually testified to the utter inability of the *samasthan* to pay a much less sum than that demanded, that this, strangely enough, resulted in the *peishkush* being raised to Rs. 18,000 H. S., that the Raja Sahib appealed against this to His Highness the Nizam repeatedly without avail—all this your readers know from my letters. In this letter I shall put before them a case which, though not as "bad" as that of the Raja of Anagondi, serves to show equally well what policy the present Government is guided by with respect to its dealings with the Hindus. Gurgunta is a small principality in His Highness the Nizam's Dominions yielding an annual income of about Rs. 40,000; and it has been in the possession of the Hindu family that now stands dispossessed of it, for a longer period than Hyderabad itself has been in the hands of the Nizams. The last Raja died in January 1890, and the *samasthan* passed as inheritance to his two widows and daughter. These latter had been in the enjoyment of the revenues of the State hardly for a month, when a Taluqdhar appeared on the scene with a band of sepoys and policemen and took forcible possession of not only the *samasthan* but their private estates. The why and wherefore of this arbitrary proceeding it is hardly necessary we should speculate upon—they are transparent to all. The Ranis having failed to get justice from the Minister has, I am informed, placed her case in the hands of Mr. Nelson, Barrister-at-law, and instructed him to carry it up to His Highness the Nizam himself. What action His Highness will take in the matter—remains to be seen.

An item of interesting news comes to me from a trustworthy quarter. A young Hindu gentleman—one of the most intelligent men in His Highness's Educational Department—whose services had received a recognition in the shape of a valuable gold watch presented to him in the name of the Government by the Nawab Vicar-ul-Umrah Bahadur, went to see the Nawab off at a certain railway station. The Nawab wished to know where the Hindu had been born; and on being told he was a *pucca* Hydrabadee

he turned to the Nawab Mushtak Hussain Vicar-ul-Mulk who was by his side and told him with a signficant look: Look, he is a Hydrabadeee." The snub conveyed by the Nawab Vicar-ulr-Umra's remark can be appreciated only by those who have any knowledge of the Minister *de facto's* stock-in trade—"There is no good in Hydrabadees,"—and who know how aliens from the North have been pitchforked by him into some of the highest positions in the land.

A local journalist has been going about, I am credibly informed, notifying "to all whom it may concern" that the Hyderabad letters in the *Hindu* will in future be shut out of his columns. Failing to perceive any additional importance that their reproduction in his columns has invested my letterrs with, I cannot thank the journalist for having hitherto republished the Hyderabad letters; nor am I inclined to regret the notification.

The results of the Matriculation examination of the University of Madras held in December last, received here at the close of last week, show how intelligent girls are as a rule. Out of the six or seven girls that appeared for the examination from the St. George's Grammar School, three are declared to have passed in the first class and one in the second; while out of 100 or more boys only 23 have come out successful—all except two being placed in the second class. In congratulating the father of one of these three young ladies, Captain Tom Bayley of His Highness the Nizam's Artillery, the Government organ suggests: "Three Nizam's scholarsnips have already been established, but this generosity in the cause of education, may well be augmented by appointing an additional one exclusively for girls." While welcoming the suggestion and glad too to be told, that the "Deccan Standard" is "satisfied that Miss Bayley's case will receive kindly consideration," I may be permitted to mention the case of a young lady who has as good claims on the Nizam's Goverment as Miss Bayley and as such deserved "kindly consideration" but failed to get it. The

young lady I refer to, is the first lady matriculate here. She was born in His Highness's territorry and how successfully her father, who has been connected with the Educational Department for over 17 years, has worked in the cause of education, and how much of the spread of it is due to him all Hyderabad knows. Yet when the father applied to the Government for a scholarship to enable his daughter to study for a Medical Degree at one of the Medical Colleges in the Presidency towns, very little of "kindly consideration" was shown. Compare this Mr. Editor with the case of a young lady from the North. She came here, had the "consideratian" for the asking with little or no trouble, went to Madras, read in the Medical College for about 2 years at the expense of the Nizam's Government—and then took service under the Mysore Government. Inscrutable really are the ways of officials here! If favoritism plays as prominent a part as consideration of merit elsewhere, it like Aron's rod, swallows up all other considerations here.

A fancy fair will be held shortly in tha Chadarghat Public Gardens. It has been organized by Mrs. Tytler, a lady well-known in all circles here, with a view to provide a bed in the Ripon Hospital at Simla for European patients from the plains during the six hot months. This is not the first time that Mrs. Tytler devotes herself to a philanthrophic object like this; she held a similar fair with the same object more than a year ago on the Residency grounds. The fact of a lady at her age coming forward to contribute to the comfort of suffering humanity ought to induce all who can look beyond self to "support" it *not* merely in words but *practically*.

HYDERABAD, *21st February, 1891.*

I MUST begin this letter with a paragraph about the parade at Golconda I referred to in my last but one letter—for thereby hangs a tale. The latest accession to the file of favourites and henchmen of the party in power seems to be the Nawab Major Afsur Jung. The Nawab is admitted on all hands to have a great deal of influence with His Highness the Nizam. Whether this influence is to be used in the interests of his newly-found masters, we shall not have to wait long, I am sure, to know. In the meanwhile it will be interes'ing to study the masters' ways to pleasure the Nawab Major. To make him feel elevated —as well, no donbt, as to spite Colonel Nevill who, since the evil day he saw reason not to return a visit paid him by a lady and a gentleman moving in the highest circles here has been anything but a *persona grata*—orders were issued sometime ago for a general parade of the Regular Troops and Golconda brigade at Golconda under his command. Two or three days before the day fixed for the parade Colonel Nevill who had been on a tour of inspection happened to come into the head-quarters, and learning of the orders wrote to the Government apprising it of his arrival and pointing out to it that being a superior officer he should have the chief command at the parade. This official communication elicited from the Private Secretary to H. E. the Minister a confidential letter, directing Colonel Nevill to keep at home on the parade day, to fall in the Minister's staff, to finish his touring, or to go to Hanumkonda with two other officers and choose a site for jail. The Colonel's feelings could easily be imagined. He reported the matter to the Resident, but failing to get him to interfere he had the whole case laid, I am informed, before His Highness with the result that His Highness—as usual with him whenever a case of injustice is brought to his notice—issued an order countermanding the orders for a parade and administered the Minister a "wigging" richly deserved.

As far as Colonel Nevill is concerned, this is not the first time that he suffers an indignity at the hands of the politicals.

The well-know *Kulsambi* case which proved the ruin of the "Telegraph" revealed a desperate attempt to bring him to disgrace.

The Nawab Mushtak Hussain Vicar-ul-mulk is after all, not the mighty man I took him to be. He is not above the fate of meaner mortals—for he, too has his disappointments. The other day he wished to become a member of the Hyderabad Club—and soon found out that wishing was not having even with him in every case. His name was put up for election. Some of the highest European officials in the State went about canvassing votes for him. And all his friends, admirers and proteges especially of the Golconda Brigade mustered strong on the election day. Yet as the Fates would have it the ballot box was found to contain nine black balls. A wonder of wonders. That the most powerful official should thus be declared unworthy of a membership of the Club, that the most successful political should thus be black-balled! The very evening that the result was known the Nawab had a relapse, I hear, into a serious illness. If the black balling had anything to do with the illness, the cynicism he wears is really a mask and he must have a soft spot hidden away somewhere. And one of the European officials would seem to have gone into hysterics over the affair and suggested among other things the breaking up of the Club.

Two of the local papers are evidently vieing with each other to attain the excellence (!) of the prints immortalished by Dickens in his Pickwick papers. One cannot be mentioned by them but one must be abused in the vilest terms or praised in the most ludicrously flattering language. In noticing the effusions of the local representative of the "Indian Daily News," one of these unenviably brilliant writers remarks that Indian Daily News' own correspondent "unlike the *Hindu* correspondent, seems to be a lover of truth and free from malice." The injustice and spite of the remark are so apprent to every impartial newspaper reader in Hyderabad, that I need not quote chapter and verse to refute it or work myself into a rage and call het

writer names as the "Deccan Standard" has done. But in the interests of fair journalism I would ask the writer or rather challenge him to point out to me one instance in which I have shown myself untruthful or malicious.

The judgment passed by Mr. Ahmed Raza Khan in the City Murder case was, according to the procedure in vogue, sent up to a divisional bench of the High Court composed of the Nawab Imad Jung, and Mr. Ali Raza Khan, M. A., for confirmation. And they have enhanced the sentence with reference to Abool Husain in the first instance to imprisonment for life.

The Fancy Bazaar organized by Mrs. Tytler came off in the Chadarghat Public Gardens on Thursday last. In spite of the charms that presided over the several stalls, I am told the bazaar has been financially a failure. The Hydrabadee bigwigs were conspicuous by their absence—they evidently love wasting their money over nautches, sycophants and tale-bearers better than spending any portion of it towards accomplishing the very noble object with which the bazaar was held. Among the very kind ladies that helped Mrs. Tytler in forming the bazaar, those that did the best business, as far as I could see, were the two Misses Griffin who waylaid people most gracefully and buttonholed them in spite of themselves at a rupee a head. I hear these young ladies realized something like Rs. 100. If others had been equally successful in the way of disposing of their "saleables" the bazaar would not have turned out a failure financially to be sure.

The Hindus of Secunderabad would seem to have taken a leaf from the book of their brethren here. The "Albert Reading Room" people convened one or two meetings to discuss the advisability of having a Hindu Judge in place of Mr. Ekbal Ali retired, and have finally resolved to memorialize the Government praying that it may take advantage of the vacancy created on the High Court Bench and appoint a competent Hindu Judge to interpret law in the light of the customs and manners of a vast

majority of His Highness's subjects. The resolution though destined to fall flat on the powers-that-be, is to be welcomed as indicative of the growth of public opinion which will have one day attained such strength as to force justice even from worse rulers than those in the ascendant to-day.

We are soon to have a fifth school inspectorate. 'Why?' it may well be asked seeing that we have already four Inspectors having, as compared with the work of the same officers in the British Provinces, little or no work to do. Why? Can there be better reason than that the Home Secretary does not think it safe to have Mr. Sturge, M. A., any longer in the Mining Department? It may not be out of place here to notice how His Highness's educational executive came to be officered by four men of such different qualifications as Messss. Croley, Venugopal Pillai, Schaffter and Lakshman. All the executive work was done by four *Mohtameens* with salaries ranging from 125 to 175 H. S. Rupees until Mr. Croley sought, by force of fate, an entrance into the portals of the Nizam's service. No sooner Mr. Croley was sent out of the Chadarghat St. George's Grammar School than his worth become perceptible to the educational authorities, and a necessity for such a man as Inspector flashed across their minds—and he was appointed Inspector-General. He had been in the service for a short while when he discovered that the educational work of four divisions was more than he could do. So Mr. Venugopal, who had done some work in the cause of education in Secunderabad, was appointed an Inspector in charge of two divisions. Time jogged on thus until Mr. Schaffter being sent adrift by the Nawab Mehdi Ali had to be provided for. The third Inspectorship came thus into existence. Some time afterwards the senior Inspector found himself overworked and got the fourth Inspector appointed in the person of Mr. Lakshman, B. A. The history of these appointments is rather interesting—is it not Mr. Editor?

HYDERABAD, *28th February 1891.*

It is extremely amusing to note how suddenly "disease" makes its appearance in official circles and disappears from them. Only the other day we were most seriously given to understand that H. E. Sir Asmanjah Bahadur had suffered so much in health on account of his multifarious and onerous duties, that in accordance with the best medical advice availabe here, he had made up his mind to go and rest in Ajmere and other places for a short time. And now I hear His Excellency has changed his mind. Why, all these who wish to see the nobleman live long are naturally anxious to know. Is it because of some political necessity? If so in one premier nobleman at least we have one who has completely broken off from the lethargy of the past, a male "edition" of the adventurous Miss Valerie Van Tassel who would "soar" even at the risk of her life.

I should like to know which of those in power is responsible for the following promotions :—

(1.) Bashirudden, a relative of the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung's has been promoted from Police Superintendentship of the last grade with a salary of Rs. 200 to Police Superintendentship first grade on Rs. 300, in supercession of many old and deserving Superintendent of higher grades.

(2.) Mahbul Ali, Ekbal Ali's brother, entered the Police Department as a Court Nazir or Inspector on Rs. 125 a month. And although hardly a twelve month has elapsed since then, he finds himself acting as Police Superintendent, first grade.

(3.) Mahomed Raza while Nazir of Kuldabad on Rs. 30 conducted himself very suspiciously. A charge of embezzlement of Government money was brought against him, and he absconded. Though the charge is still pending, and he has not abandoned his secret haunt, he has had a "kick-up."

It is strongly rumoured that some officials are trying their best to get back Moulvi Ekal Ali on a higher pay.

HYDERABAD, *7th March* 1891.

I regret to have to begin this week's letter with the announcement of a death in high circles Miss Ida Fitzpatrick, the youngest daughter of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever last Tuesday morning. She had been ailing for over a fortnight, and all that medical skill and parental watchfulness could do had availed her nothing. Her death has cast a gloom over Hyderabad society, and her father who has lost two daughters since coming over here needs all the strength that religion and sympathy can impart to bear up against his bereavement.

How the vacancy created on the High Court Bench by the retirement of Mr. Ekbal Ali, came to be not filled up, or rather considered to be a supernumerary office, it is interesting to know. Soon after Ekbal Ali's retirement the rulers *de facto* held a consultation *in camera* with the Nawab Imad Jung Bahadur, Chief Justice, as to the appointment of a successor on the Bench. The Nawab Imad Jung suggested two names for the vacancy. One was a Mahomedan who is a District Judge, and the other a Hindu in the Small Causes Court. Being outside the pale of favourites, the Mahomedan could not be nominated to the post; and the Hindu, being *a Hindu,* could not receive favourable consideration at the hands of the rulers. So they hummed and hawed for a while, and then they separated and resolved to see what they could do for themselves. But the Nawab Imad Jung was not going to allow himself to be reduced to a nonentity even where matters regarding his department were concerned. He evidently took stock of the chances there were of a worthless man being forced on him, and preferring over-working himself and his colleagues to having the whole judicial work thrown into a mess by the introduction of a good-for-nothing "hand," met his colleagues in the High Court rooms and with their knowledge and consent reported to the Government that the High Court was already sufficiently strong and there was no necessity for another Judge. And the report had, *mirabile dictu* the desired effect.

The rumour, I referred to in my last letter, about Ekbal Ali is confirmed by a local contemporary who says, "Mr. Justice Ekbal Ali has after all withdrawn his resignation and will return here in a few days." He has "withdrawn his resignation" no doubt in the hope of getting higher pay than that he was in receipt of as a Judge of the High Court. And we find for the second time within the last few months that resignation in the vocabulary of the rulers is not indicative of one's desire to retire from the service, but an application for increase of pay. I do not at all grudge Mr. Ekbal Ali the addition he expects to his former salary,—for what is it when compared with the large sums that regularly go to secure unscrupulous support and petty flattery? But I should like to know why it is that powerful men have been at such great pains to get him back? It is that the Government—that is they—cannot get on without him?

What has become of the Salar Jung Debt Commission? a friend asked me the other day. As I could not answer the question myself, I must request the powers-that-be to answer it *pro bono publico*. The last I heard of the commission was from the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk himself. He told me more than seven months ago that the report of the Commission had been nearly ready and it would be published soon. If the report was nearly ready so long ago, it could certainly not be said that it is not ready now. What has become of the report then? What conclusions has the Commission come to as to the deliquents who have been under suspension for many months now? No answer is forthcoming. It is whispered that the object of those who called the Commission into existence was merely to annoy and humble some men who could not be got to play into their hands. And the extraordinary long delay there has been in the publishing of the results of the Commission's inquiry lends significance to this whisper.

Now and then a paragraph goes the rounds which has a history worth telling. The imagination, called into play by sheer necessity, of those active and ingenious benefactors

of society—newspaper reporters—furnishes materials for such history to be sure. Recently a clever reporter on the staff of one of the local papers heard that the Rev. Mr. Gilder of the Chaddarghaut Methodist Episcopal Church was to leave for Bangalore to attend a missionary conference; and he saw a little afterwards the Rev. Mr. Stone, a former parson of the Church at Mr. Gilder's house. The hearing and seeing were suggestive of many truths in Mr. Reporter's eyes. He who could put two and two together very cleverly, put these two things together and drew from them the conclusion that Mr. Stone would act for Mr. Gilder during his absence And it is needless to say that the reporter soon found out he had overreached himself. The person who manufactured the paragraph about the "Mrs. Littledale who accompanied her husband on his passage through the Pamir steppe being a high class Mahrata lady, a daughter of Dr. Atmaram Pandurang of Bombay," would seem to belong to the same genus of imaginative newspapermen as this reporter, *The* Mrs. Littledale who is a high.class Mahrata lady being a daughter of Dr. Atmaram Panduradg of Bombay, was here doing work as Superintendent or Principal of the Zenana School at the time that Mr. Littledale is said to have passed through the Pamir plateau. How she could have been in Hyderabad and Pamir plateau at one and the same time is a mystery which the writer of the paragraph alone can unravel.

Hyderabad, *16th March, 1891.*

Ekbal Ali has come back to the scene of his activities. Unlike the typical Mahomedan he is not a lover of idleness or delay. No sooner he knew that Hyderabad could not get on without him, that he bade goodbye to the British Service and started and slept not a wink until he was admidst his friends and well-wishers. He was in receipt of a monthly salary of 1500 H. S. Rs. when he threw up his judgeship ; now he gets 2000 Rs. a month. As long as he was in the High Court, his patrons could not increase his pay without making him supersede Ali Raza Khan and others and thus making enemies of them. But now that he is free, they could create a law commission and put him at the head of it on 2000 Rs. a month—and plead State necessity. How political these men really are! But then they might profitably remember that that which at one moment succeeds, ends not only in failure but in ruin at another.

Sometime ago a correspondent drew public attention in the columns of a local paper to the way in which a distinguished Nawab amuses himself on festive occasions. The 'way' will amuse your readers immensely and at the same time give them an idea of the stamp of the men who are entrusted with the destinies of ten millions of people here. The Nawab referred to who has evidently a talent for the dramatique—the character of it I leave it to you to determine—acts a part on occasions of parties to his friend at his residence. He dresses himself like a woman—if the man-woman is an edyfying sight how much more so must the Nawab-woman be!—and sits on a wooden platform beform a pot of toddy and sells toddy at a gold mohur—and not two pies as stated by the correspondent in the local paper—a measure to friends and admirers. In this character the nobleman is perfection itself.

The Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung has filed his explanation in connection with the so-called Second Treasury Frauds case.

His last application to the Government for another week's delay in putting in his explanation, drew down on him the wrath of the mighty Vicarul mulk, who in acquiescing in the request wrote to say that if by a certain date the explanation be not forthcoming he would be asked to give over charge. I hope to be able to go through the explanation shortly, and to say something about it in my next letter.

An order published in a recent issue of the "Jareeda" notifies that in accordance with the decision of the learned Judges of the High Court, Mr. Rudra has been disbarred for his offensive remarks on Justice in the Moglai Courts in connection with Gribble *versus* Gallagher. It is noteworthy that the order should appear about the same time that Mr. Rudra by his cross-examination of Mr. Gallagher put the public in possession of many important State secrets, not the least of them being that which charges the officials with bribing unscrupulous newspapermen for being lauded up. A strange concidence to be sure!

I shall show how the underlings of the powers that be use the power they are trusted with. On the 5th of Rabinssanee B. 88 F., a Deputy Inam Commissioner issued an order to his office clerks to the effect that "most of them" would have to undergo an examination in their respective work, and that for the purpose they should present themselves at his office on the following Saturday at 10 A. M. The day came and the Dupty "singled" out only four of the clerks—and these men obnoxious to him—for examination. These naturally enough, respectfully protested against the injustice. And for this "impertinence"—as it appears from an application signed by these four—the officer suspended them and remarked they were rebels (*bagi*) and so they should be turned out by force by the police. The upshot of the whole affair was that a number of charges, baseless so far as any written evidence went, was preferred against one of the clerks and he was dismissed. The injured man appealed to the Subadar, and the latter has adminis-

tered the Deputy Commissioner a richly-deserved wigging and sent him back all the papers connected with the case in order that he may conduct the proceedings in a regular manner, and the clerk may have an opportunity of filing an explanation for his conduct.

HYDERABAD, *21st March 1891.*

This morning's "Deccan Times" has a very sensible leader commenting upon the order recently passed by His Excellency the Minister revoking the licence granted to Mr. A. C. Rudra, Barrister-at-law, to practise in the Courts of His Highness the Nizam for " offensive remarks " made by him regarding the Judges of the High Court in connection with Gallagher *versus* Gribble. " The case of Mr. Rudra " is very clearly set forth, and the great injustice or rather the unheard-of severity of the order is dealt with in no spiteful or captious spirit. The remarks which have cost Mr. Rudra his *sunnudh* allude to the Government of Hyderabad being a personal one, to Judges being more or less all partizans of the Government, and to justice being a toss-up in Hyderabad. That the Hyderabad Government is a personal one, even the most unscrupulous of official proteges and apologists cannot and dare not deny ; and the partizanship, *i. e.* the thoroughly subservient character of the Judges, is put beyond a possibility of doubt by the fact that the High Court did not take any notice of the so-called offensive remarks until called upon more than once by the Government to do so. Who can gainsay then that justice is a toss-up here ? A statement of these facts made when un-called for would certainly constitute an un-pardonable offence. But in the circumstances in which it was made by Mr. Rudra, it was privileged. His client, Mr. Gribble, stood charged with unprofessional and dishonorable conduct ; and to have refrained from mentioning well-known facts calculated to disprove the charge would have been dereliction of duty. That the Judges should have failed to take all this into account and "unanimously resolved" to strike Mr. Rudra's name off the rolls of the advocates of the High Court is passing strange—if it does not point to partizanship.

I have not done with Mr. Ekbal Ali yet. Some more light has been thrown upon his so-called recall from the North-Western Provinces—and I shall not like to hide it under a bushel. If what I hear is true—and there is no earthly reason for doubting

it—His Excellency Sir Asmanja Bahadur has been most infamously victimised by the wire-pullers, his philosophers and friends, in the interests of Ekbal Ali. Soon after Ekbal Ali's departure, his friends went to His Excellency, I am informed, and asked him to write to Ekbal Ali a letter bearing testimony to the many valuable services he had rendered to the State—a letter which might be of use to him in the North-West. The Minister paid little attention to the request in the first instance but on its being made to him often he asked his Private Secretary to wire to Ekbal Ali expressing his great satisfaction with the work done by him while here. The telegram being drafted by one of Mr. Ali's faithful friends and allies took the form of an expression of deep regret on the part of His Excellency at Mr. Ali's determination to sever his connectien with the service of this State. And no sooner this message reached Ekbal Ali, than he very graciously wired back to say that if His Excellency was so sorry he did not want to get away from the Hyderabad service—and immediately started for Hyderabad.

I have seen the explanation recently filed by the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung in connection with the second Treasury Frauds case. It is an elaborate and plainly-worded document; and the calm, dignified tone of it and the contempt it evinces for all the mean minds that concocted the case against him —points the Nawab out to be a man with whom the party in power cannot trifle with impunity. At the outset it was declared from the house-tops by Messrs Munover Khan and Co., that frauds had been committed to the extent of 7 lakhs and a half of H. S. Rupees. The figure subsequently went down to four lakhs; and it has since vanished, for the Government itself has admitted that no overpayment was made to Dilawar Nawaz Jung. 'If the fraud has proved to be a mare's nest, why are the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung and the Rajah Sriniwas Rao still bothered with departmental enquiries and harassed and threatened in all manner of ways?' It may be asked. The why is a mystery—and it can be unravelled only by

those that enjoy the confidence of the powers-that-be. But I may mention that Mr. Munover Khan soon after his "discovery" of the frauds on the Treasury, wrote to the Political and Financial Secretary in letter, dated the 28th Azoor 1299 F. to the effect; "I submit these particulars to the Government so that I may be remunerated for this unexpected victory"—*victory over political opponents* to be sure!

That portion of the Nawab Hassan Bin Abdulla's explanation which deals with the letter from Munover Khan to the Political and Financial Secretary above referred to is noteworthy. The Nawab justly complains of the unheard-of proceedings initiated against him by one who was a Sheristadhar in the Treasury when he was Accountant-General— *i. e.*, Munover Khan. Referring to the motives brought home to Munover Khan by the letter No. 461, the Nawab says, 'with such motives he literally flooded the offices with *Roobkars* in every one of which the sum supposed to have been overpaid to Dilawar Nawaz Jung was magnified' (*vide* Munover Khan's Roobkar's Nos. 46, 47, 640, 1297). Then he points out how Munover Khan without even the vestige of any evidence charged him with offences of a grave character, how if men are allowed to heap indignities on officials in this fashion Government service will soon come to be looked upon as being a source of great danger and dishonor, and adds that whatever the result of the inquiry may be Munover Khan has had his "remuneration" since he has been allowed to sit in the chair before which only a few months previously he had to stand. How long the lucky man will *grace* the chair, remains to be seen.

Thanks to the zealous faith and proselyting influence of a high official, Hyderabad has recently had an interesting addition to the number of its Moslem inhabitants. A Shastri on the other side of sixty, all of a sudden, lost belief in Hinduism, in the verses he had flung at the head of Mohamedans and Christians for several decades and embraced the faith "of the faithful" and became Gulam Mohamed some time ago. Happy Hyderabad! It is fast approaching its millenium. The days

are not far off when political men can say with their hands on their hearts; "We serve not only ourselves but our God."

Sadulla, the husband of the murdered woman in the City Murder Case, filed a suit before Mr. Bosanquet, J. P., sometime ago against Mr. Gallaghar, Editor of the "Deccan Standard" for publishing a paragraph casting aspersions on his wife's character. Mr. Gallaghar has since made a sort of apology through his columns; and as his remarks regarding the deceased woman do not seem to have been dictated by malice and as he is prepared to make all honorable amends it is hoped that Sadulla will withdraw his plaint.

HYDERABAD, *4th April 1891.*

The "Hyderabad Record" gave his readers to understand a few days ago that the Nizam's Government had, at the request of several officials, handed over to their solicitors all the issues of the "Hindu" containing Hyderabad letter and that 29 passages therein had been taken exception to. What the "Record's" sources of information were, I cannot say. But I hope, in the interests of the people which I have at heart, that the information is reliable, that the Government will let the officials who consider themselves grossly libelled by me in my weekly letters take me up for libel. I am as anxious as any *bona fide* Hyderabadee that the truth should be known about the by-no-means creditable ways of those in power, and that the British Resident should justify his 'existence' here by efforts to save the land from utter ruination.

A most important judgment was passed by Mr. O. V. Bosanquet, on the 30th of March last. It was in Gallagher *versus* Gribble and Shapurjee which has attracted considerable attention, and has done the people an invaluable service by showing how a portion at least of public funds is spent by the men in power. The judgment quite sustains Dr. Bosanquet's reputation for honesty, straight-forwardness, and keen-sightedness, and speaks in no faltering tone of the doings of the unscrupulous officialdom—of doings of which any man with a modicum of regard for himself ought to be thoroughly ashamed. Referring to the passage in a certain issue of the "Deccan Times" that Mr. Gallagher took objection to as charging him with dishonesty indirectly, Mr. Bosanquet says:

"It has therefore to be considered whether, in view of certain transactions of the complainant, which have been made known to the public by the medium of the Law Courts and the newspapers, such an imputation can be said to have lowered his character. The first of these transactions relates to the Rs.2,400 alluded to above which, according to the complainant's own

statement, was paid to him personally by the Nizam's Government. This money, the complainant by his counsel Mr. Battenburgh, has once admitted, in open Court, to have been paid to him as bribe. In the present case however he has attemped to prove that he received it for work done. Interrogated as to the nature of the work, he stated that it was translation, but was only able to give one instance of such work, namely the translation for publication in his paper of the speech made by the present Minister on assuming office It is clear therefore that there must have been some other reason for this payment to which, it may be noted, the complainant told the Court that he had only a moral claim. The reason does not seem far to seek. For, looking to the concealment in the way the money was paid, the Manager of the " Deccan Times" being made the ostensible proprietor, and subscription for copies of the paper (never supplied) the ostensible reason, and looking to the tone of Mr. Gallagher's letter to the Secretary to Government, dated the 11th June 1888, there can be little doubt that the payment was, as Mr. Battenburg said, nothing but a bribe to secure to the Government the support of the outwardly impartial Editor of the " Deccan Times." Again Mr. Gallagher has admitted that he also receives a monthly payment from the Nizam's Government. He has indeed attempted to make out that the Government employed him in the capacity of legal adviser, but, having regard to his claims to be considered a member of the legal profession, such a supposition must, I think, he dismissed as impossible. The true explanation is rather that it is only a continuation of the policy inaugurated by the payment of the Rs.2,400."

Then the Judge notices the two letters written by Mr. Gallagher to Mr. Shapurjee while in charge of the " Deccan Times" about Abdul Hak's offer of ten thousand Rupees and his (Mr. G's) willingmess to "play the candid friend" "when he would find sufficient cause for offence" against Hak—for comments on which in the " Hindu." I was threatened, you will remember

by Mr. Gallagher with prosecution *not* in the Madras Courts but in the Hyderabad Courts"—and winds up thus.

" So clear is the meaning of these letters, and so absolutely must they have proved to the public the utter absence of probity in the complainant, that I am unable to find that the imputation of dishonesty, conveyed in the second passage complained of, can have lowered his character in this respect either directly or indirectly. I therefore discharge the accused under Section 253."

Now I should like to know if it is not the duty of the genuine nobility of Hyderabad to press his Excellency Sir Asmanja Bahadur for an explanation of the discreditable conduct of his henchmen, to " proceed against" him before His Highness the Nizam for allowing his men to spend the money got out of the hard-worked *ryat* in the manner so well described by Mr. Bosanquet in his able judgment? Is not the British Resident, I ask, bound to take notice of the facts vouched for by one of the Judges of the Residency Courts, and stay the alien hands busy spoliating the *reis* and the *rayet* alike?

I am glad to inform you that very laudable efforts are being made to bring those concerned in the City Murder Case to justice. Sadulla, you will remember, filed a suit some time ago against Mr. Gallagher, Editor of the " Deccan Standard" for publishing a paragraph defaming his wife. On Mr. G.'s tendering him an apology for inserting the paragraph, he withdrew the charge against him and through his counsel Mr. Nelson sought permission of Mr. Bosanquet to bring a charge of murder against Abdul Wahid and others who had been discharged by Mr. Ahmed Raza Khan. Mr. Bosanquet heard the Counsel's argument for re-opening the case and wished to know if he had 'jurisdiction' in the matter. And consequently Mr. Nelson appeared before the Judge on the 31st ultimo and made an able speech with a view to prove that being British-born subject Abdul Wahid and his servants were amenable to British laws only and that according to the Criminal Procedure Code and

Foreign Jurisdiction Act he had power to try "the Criminals" though they had been tried and discharged by a Moglai Court. The speech seems to have had the desired effect, for Mr Bosanquet has applied to the Resident for permission to try the case.

Whatever might be said against the Nawab-Vicar-ul-Mulk, this much must be admitted that he is a very hard-working and energetic official. In spite of the illness that took him to Bombay, he did not let slip the opportunity that presented itself of interviewing Sir Mortimer Durand who is spoken of as Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's successor here. What the nature of the interview was, it is not possible to say. But I hear that according to a telegram from Bombay the interview was "satisfactory."

Moulvie Ekbal Ali is again a judge of the High Court. What has become then of the decision come to by the Chief Justice and his colleagues soon after Mr. Ali's departure to the North-Western Provinces that the Court could get on very well without one more Judge?

One of the many that have got their grievances here, is Mrs. Tytler, well-known here and elsewhere for her philanthropy. She sent, I am told, some paintings and articles worth about 4,000 H. S. Rs. to His Highness the Nizam for his inspection some time ago. His Highness inspected them and kindly ordered that they should be kept in the palace and Mrs. Tytler paid for them. But the order received little attention from those about him. Mrs. Tytler waited for a good long time for the money due; and finding it to have been in vain she called at the *Sarfikass* office some days ago and was told that a certain person about the person of His Highness would not let "them" pay her. What the person has to do with the money due to Mrs. Tytler by His Highness—God only knows. Tired of waiting here for her dues, Mrs. Tytler left for Bombay this morning and it is I believe her intention, to lay her case before the Foreign Office in Calcutta.

HYDERABAD, 11*th April* 1891.

It would be difficult to find in the whole of India a family more illustrious than the Salar Jung family or one which has suffered so much as the Salar Jung family has at the hands of men who know not or rather will not know "Joseph." The fates as well the powers-that-be seem to have decided against it. The two sons of the great satesman who had for over a quarter of a century occupied a unique position in the Indian political world, died while hopes were yet being formed of them, within a few months of each other—and the name itself of the family might have been buried with them but for a babe that lives in degradation and discomfort to tell of former greatness and raise in the few Salar Jungites that are left faint hopes of future prosperity. The calamity is not calamitous enough in the eyes of some—and they must needs see that the friends of the family are powerless to do any good. The Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung Bahadur Hussan Bin Abdulla who has followed the fortunes of the family for well-nigh twenty-five years, and whose faithfulness to it and zeal in its behalf are facts that every one here can vouch for, can no longer lift so much as a finger of his to ward off any evil designed or intended against it. Under a very great pressure from the ruling authorities, the Nawab has had to resign his membership of the Salar Jung's estates management Committee. The want of foresight which allowed Busherud Dowlah's administration to have anything to do with the Salar Jung estates management Committee—is being made more and more clear day by day to be sure.

I get such few opportunities of singing the praises of those in power that when I get them I never like to let them slip through. Sometime ago a strong rumour was current in the city that a high official had taken a bribe of Rs. 60,000 from the *Begums* of the Salar Jung family. Being addressed on the subject by the official, the *Begums* have written to contradict the rumour. This is an immesely gratifying fact—and I wish to place it on record.

Wonders never cease in Hyderabad. About two months and a half after the passing of Judgment by Mr. Ahmed Raza Khan in the City murder case, and a month and 25 days after the decision of a Divisional Bench of the High Court on it, His Excellency Sir Asmanjah Bahadur has issued a resolution about it. The resolution is a lengthy one, and it pitches into Ahmed Raza Khan and the police and protests too much in the same breath—and betrays, fortunately or unfortunately, its forced tone. It winds up with the following orders :—

(1.) The order of the Divisional Bench sentencing Abdool Husain to imprisonment for life, is confirmed.

(2.) His Excellency desires to record his grave displeasure at the procedure adopted both by the city and suburban police and by Hafiz Syed Ahmed Raza Khan Sahib, which prevented all the facts of the case being brought to light and led to circumstances much to be regretted.

(3.) With regard to Abdul Rahman, H. E. the Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 13 of the High Court Rules, directs that the Full Bench of the High Court should consider the points above raised and direct the Government Pleader to re-open the case against him.

(4.) The Kotwal should be directed to do his utmost to collect such further information as will complete the links in the chain of evidence. The High Court should then be moved to re-open the case against Abdul Wahid, admit the further evidence that may be forthcoming and decide on the merits of the case so as to give a clear decision as to his innocence or guilt. In the meanwhile Abdul Wahid should be re-arrested unless he can furnish bail to the extent of Rs. 10,000.

There is no doubt that this resolution is due to the wide-felt sympathy—secured for Sadulla by the circumstances amidst which and the manner in which "Mumtiaz" met her death—which found expression recently in a laudable attempt to get the case retried by a British Magistrate.

It is always painful to have to write an obituary—and much more so when it relates to one who has done some service in his time. Yet it is desirable that it ought to be "writ"—for it often points a moral. The "Hyderabad Record" after struggling for life for a little over five years, breathed its last on Friday last. Its was a chequered existence—and its reverses, successes and the unhappy circumstances which led to its sudden demise are full of valuable counsel to all those who are already engaged in journalistic work or who may be engaged in it, hereafter here. Under the late Mr. Job Solomon it was a power in the land—how before it was many months old it came to be stopped by British officials, how persistently and courageously Mr. Solomon fought against tremendous odds and secured the right to publish the paper again, how the "Record", until the moment of his death, was a terror to corrupt officials, how they winced under its attacks and kept their hands off partiality or injustice to a certain extent at least in sheer fright of its criticism, all Hyderabad knows. Mr. Solomon died, and with him died the independence and courage of the "Record." Under a good guide it might have had a long and very useful career.

The management of the "Deccan Times" has again changed hands. Mr. Gribble's connection with the paper as Managing Proprietor ceased this morning. Under Mr. Gribble the "Deccan Times" improved considerably in matter as well as manner, and its tone was uniformly courteous, and generally impartial and independent—though not much to the benefit, it must be confessed, of Hyderabadees. But what it may be under his successor or successors the future alone can reveal to us.

HYDERABAD, *19th April, 1891.*

The resolution recently issued by H. E. the Minister about the City Murder Case, teaches many lessons. It shows what a persistent agitation in the cause of truth and justice could do even in Hyderabad as "well as how" much the weak-kneed officials are to be pitied who lend themselves to the perpetration of a wrong or perversion of justice. Mr. Syed Ahmed Raza Khan who interpreted law as he pleased and refused to admit important evidence in a remarkably authoritative manner, who was determined not to be taught his duty either by pleaders or newspaperwallahs and who was both lauded up and defended for his judgment by the "mouth piece of the Government"—what a sad plight he is in now! Sir Asmanja Bahadur says that 'if his judgment had been confirmed, it could, with truth, have been affirmed that justice itself had been slain;' and the Government organ, with a consistency (!) unheard-of in the annals of Indian journalism, finds it impossible to see how, with any credit to himself or usefulness to the State, Mr. Justice Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan can continue to dispense justice from the High Court bench any longer. Mr. Raza Khan might well exclaim *Et tu Brute*—but then the man who trusts to politicals and hirelings for support and deflects from the path of right and duty has little reason to blame any one but himself.

HYDERABAD, 25*th April, 1891.*

"Those that have eyes to see with and brains to understand, are fully convinced that the policy of the present administration, which is based on the wise and far-seeing principles of justice, economy and impartiality is bound to prevail in the end." So writes a correspondent from Hyderabad to one of your Calcutta contemporaries. And I hope you will allow me to say a few words about the "principles of justice, economy and impartiality" that, the above-quoted writer thinks, underlie Sir Asmanja's administration. If by principles I understand consistent rules of conduct, I find little evidence of justice, economy and impartiality guiding the present administration. Wherever convenient, whenever the interests of those in power did not suffer or there was little chance of their being thwarted in their plans for self-aggrandisement, justice was done, I admit, economy was enforced and impartiality shown. But when opponents were concerned, where were "justice, economy and impartiality"? The records of the recent doings of the present Government do not point to one single instance in which an official or an individual obnoxious to the powers-that-be had justice for the asking. Was it justice that prevailed with Sir Asmanja's "tried and trusted adviser, Vicar-ul-Mulk," when he got the *peishcush* on the principality of Anagondi raised from Rs.10,000 to Rs.18,000 in the face of the testimony of two of the Government deputes to the effect that the *samastan* was not in a condition to pay any *peishcush*? Was it justice which induced the unhappy state of things in Gurgunta? Was it justice that enabled an overpaid creditor to take forcible pessession of a Raja's villages and direct the Raja to go to a Civil Court to establish his *right* to the villages and get them restored to him? Was it impartiality that demanded a bail of 2 lakhs of Rupees from the city Sowcar charged with forgery, and a bail of Rs. 10,000 from Abdul Wahid charged with murder—that tried Jaya Rao and others by a Magistrate and appointsd a commission to inquire into the charges against the Nawab Hussan Bin Abdulla and the Raja Srinivas Rao, that enabled the Nawab

and the Raja to be at large while others concerned in the case with them were under-trial prisoners? And is it economy, I wish to know, that recalls a Judge who is of no use, retains a Private Secretary who does no work, a Director of Public Instruction who has little time to attend to his duties, that creates Assistant Secretaryships, Inspectorships and Commissions for the benefit of favourites as well as to keep some officials at arms' length, that allows a large portion of budget allotments for the Public Works Department to be spent year after year on repairs, that maintains schools without boys, and teachers without pupils, that rouses itself by fits and starts to prosecute Abdul Huk, and spends thousands over some lucky men to perfect the case against him, that pays journalists to laud the officials up and spies to gather information about political adversaries? Such questions can be multiplied *ad infinitum* and I would advise all who would sing the praises of the Moglai officials to make a list of all the questions that can be put to the Government under the head of 'justice,' 'economy,' 'impartiality' and peruse it whenever they feel inclined to rush into print to abuse honest men and ascribe motives to impartial writers.

A letter on Hyderabad affairs in another Calcutta paper has attracted a great deal of attention here. There are a few inaccuracies here and there in this letter. But these excepted, it portrays popular feeling and opinion on many important matters. It leads one to the conclusion that most of the departments in the State are most frightfully mismanaged, and that this is a fact few can deny. I met one of the highest officials of the State—one of the pillars of the present Government—at a railway station recently. Sliding into a talk about Hyderabad affairs, the official asked me what the public thought of the character of the work done by a certain department of the State. I told him what they thought—and took advantage of the opportunity to point out to him as plainly as I could what a waste of money there was in the public works, judicial, educational and other departments, and how far from efficient was the little work turned out by these. He listened to me

patiently—and all that he could say was that it was a thousand pities that such a state of things should be allowed to continue.

The resolution issued, under date the 8th April 1891, by the Government of His Highness the Nizam in the Home Department (Court of Wards) about the administration of the Sir Salar Jung estate for 1299 fasli—shows how even His Highness's order can sometimes be disregarded by his servants with impunity. Soon after the demise of the Nawab Muneer-ul-mulk, second son of the late Sir Salar Jung I., His Hghness, in consideration of the invaluable services rendered by the first Salar, resolved to take a personal interest in the management of the estates of the family, appointed a committee composed of the Rajah Sheo Raj Bahadur, the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung Bahadur, and Captain Beauclerk, to manage the estates and issued a number of instructions for its guidance. The instructions pointed out clearly how the estates should be administered, how the members of the family should be treated, that the object of the Committee should be to curtail expenditure and liquidate debts, and that Captain Beauclerk should be the guardian and care-taker of the late Sir Salar Jung II's infant son. And how these instructions have been carried out it is rather painful to inquire. Nothing was done during the year by way of liquidating long standing debts. Though, the Committee was strongly of opinion that it was absolutely necessary to raise a fresh loan of Rs. 5,75,000 for the purpose of the meeting the ordinary salaries of establishments up to the end of the year,' yet the first thing the Committee did after its appointment was to increase the cost of the establishments by about 1,500 a month, or Rs. 18,000 a year. The appointments were made without any budget estimate being prepared and in defiance of the Government orders on the subject of the employment of Europeans in public or private service; and when the budjet estimate was made according to His Highness's order it was found to be full of errors and worse than useless. And as for the 'minor,' as I told you in my last letter but one, little attention was paid to his comforts and bringing up. Now the

question arises whether Captain Beauclerk who, as Secretary to the Commitee, drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 1,200 from the revenues of the estases, is more responsible than these associated with him for the management of the estates, ought to continue to hold the position he has held for over a year with much profit to himself but little usefulness to the family. And I press this question most respectfully on the consideration of His Highness the Nizam.

A charge of theft of jewellery of the value of Rs. 7,50,000 brought by a Hyderabadee Nawab, against three of his relatives, before Mr. Hamilton, the second Presidency Magistrate in Bombay—forms the subject of talk here in many circles. The theft is said to have been committed 7 years ago ; and it remained little less than a mystery until Friday, the 17th Instant, on account of the phenomenal inactivity or incompetency of the City Police. On this date a pair of gold and silver armlets called *bajoobandh* together with a pair of gold ornaments called *theva* offered to the complainant for sale by one Munnav Khan led to a number of revelations. The complainant immediately gave information to the Residency Police and had one Kassim arrested. Then with the aid of Kassim he 'traced' the theft to the accused living in Bombay. This is the story of the case and the trial of it will be watched with interest here.

HYDERABAD, *30th May 1891.*

His Highness the Nizam has not returned from the Districts as yet. No doubt he is pleased with everything that he sees, or rather is made to see there and entertains a high opinion of the administrative capacities of those who are busy 'pleasuring' him in all manner of ways. But he little knows—and none but those on the spot can say—what misery and woe underlie the pleasant aspect that everything is made to put on by the magic of power. Not to speak of the oppression that grinds the people from year's end to year's end, the miseries brought upon them by the presence of Royalty are many and heart-rending. Fancy the only tank in a village being guarded by sepoys for the benefit of His Highness and his entourage and the villagers being compelled to go long distances to fetch water for their own use or die of thirst. Fancy busy husbandman being taken away by force out of homes to slave in the royal camp almost for nothing or their being dispossessed of their cattle or their scanty provision in the name of the Nizam. And you have an idea as to what a royal visit means to the hungry ryot. His highness the Nizam's last excursion into the districts—about 2 years ago—resulted in the depopulation of 3 villages about Hanumkonda. And how many villages have suffered and are suffering now in a similar manner it is not possible to say just now. I do not wish to be misunderstood. My object in writing thus is not to raise a disloyal hue and cry against His Highness' going into any part of his wide Dominions, but to condemn the ways in which officials seek to secure his comforts.

The "Deccan Times" has recently had two very sensible articles—one on the City Robbery Case, now pending before a Bombay Magistrate, ond the other on the subject of pensions to the Nizam's officials. The resolution issued by the Home Secretary for the appointment of a commission to inquire into the Robbery Case—a case which but for a chance might never have seen the light of day and which is not likely to be transferred to the Nizam's Government, seeing that the complainant has little

faith in the justice ef the Moglai Courts and insists on the case being tried by the British Magistrate—is an interesting production, interesting as giving one an idea of the manipulation and tergiversation that some of His Highness' officials are adepts at. It blames all but the right persons for the 'offenders' not being 'spotted' through the instrumentality of the Nizam's servants, exculpates all the responsible men in a very ingenious manner and winds up with an order—quite unnecessary—for the appointment of a comission. The robbery, committed as it was in Salar Jung II's time, is put down to the credit of the days af the late Peishkar—the Raja Naraindar Peishkar Bahadur—and to the Peishkar is allotted the failure to take immediate steps to enquire into the matter. The derliction of duty the then Judicial Secretary, the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung, was guilty of in not bringing the robbery to the notice of Sir Asman Jah on his assumption of office as Prime Minister, is passed over, and Sir Asman Jah's ignorance of the affair is made to explain his not doing anytning to have the robbery traced to the culprits. All this is in unmistakable terms pointed out by the "Deccan Times." As regards pensions, the Nizam's Government's decision to abolish pensions to Military officers in its service furnishes the occasion for the "Deccan Times" article thereon. How the decision will affect the services, how it will induce men to be in harness in spite of the disabilities and impediments of age, how this will lead to young and sound men being out of all useful work, and how it will tend to make the work turned out inefficient; all this is clarly explaiaed by the article. And it is to be hoped that the responsible men of the Government will read it 'to some purpose.'

HYDERABAD, *6th June 1891.*

The Hyderabad Law Commission and its doings have been attracting much attention here; and one name has figured most prominently in the columns of the local papers in connection with these; and that is Mahomed Ali. Whence he came, how he came, and where he has gone to—these questions have been repeatedly asked by the public ever since it was known that he had been offered the Secretaryship of the Commission by the Nizam's Government; and they are pertinent questions to be sure. Mahomed Ali has not always been known to the world as *Mahomed Ali.* Years ago when his reputation was not under a cloud and he had no reason to be afraid of hearing the name his parents had given him at his birth, he was a pleader practising in the Courts of Allyghur and was known as Zafar Yab Khan. In an unfortunate moment Mr. Zafar Yab Khan sinned against the laws of the land, and the guardians of the laws found it necessary to issue a warrant for his apprehen sion. With a view to elude this warrant Mr. Yab Khan ca me to Hyderabad, put off his name and put on *Mahomed Ali,* and sought the favour of several high officials who were his friends, and did not seek it in vain. The officials held out the right hand of fellowship to their fallen brother, pushed him on as "the Dekkhan Jurist"—and it would be difficult indeed to number and label the pretexts under which they made inroads into the Government treasury to enrich him. Thus befriended Mahomed Ali *alias* Zafar Yab Khan had a happy time of it for several years here until a few weeks since when by the kindness of a friend he came to know that he had been 'traced' and that an Inspector of Police had left Allyghur to apprehend him and had to make up his mind immediately to bid good-bye to the scene of his activities here. Such in brief is the history of Mahomed Ali, who is very closely related to satellite of the party in power—and one needs to be more than humanly credulous to believe that his official patrons knew not before this the nature of the unfortunate "mistake" which had made Allyghur too hot for him and sent him a candidate for favours at their hands.

The *Deccan Times* has in its issue of the 4th instant a very sensational leader under the heading "The Salar Jung family." The passage your contemporary quotes from a lettter addressed by Lady Salar Jung II in Saban 1308 to the mother of Sir Salar gung I and to the special Committee, appointed (to use the *Deccan Times*,' words) "by His Highness to inquire into the disgraceful and pitiable state of things resulting from the appointment" of the Nawab Basheerud Dowlawa as medium of communication between His Highness and the committe of management of the Salar Jung estates—more than confirms all that I have hitherto stated about the way in which the family affairs are managed. The quotation runs thus:—"I was compelled to send my uncle Syed Abu Torab Sahib to Sidi Ambar Khansama to tell him that the *Sahib Zada* (meaning the infant son) wanted clothes very badly, and to ask him either to get new clothes for the child or to let me have some of the *sherwanees* of Salar Jung II that I might convert them into a few suits for the *Saibh Zada*. The Khansama paid not the slightest heed to my wishes. Not a single pair of shoes or socks has even been supplied for the use of my child. And whenever a demand for the supply of arrowroot and sugar was made the Khansama refused to comply with my request, and sent word to say that the Committee had not sanctioned such items of expenditure. If such is the way in which provision is made for the clothing and the nourishment of the infant son, you can imagine the amount of attention that is being paid to other matters connected with the palace. Everybody in the palace knows all about these things and the Minister and the Home Secretary have been informed of them." These words of Lady Salar Jung II pescribe more vividly than any words of mine can the miserable pass that the affairs of the Salar Jung family have come to, and point out with a force and an eloquence that cannot be lost on any one who has not grown altogether deaf to the whispers of his conscience the necessity for interference on the part of His Highness the Nizam who graciously undertook the guardianship of the

infant representative of the family on the death of the Nawab Munierul mulk Bahadur.

The rumour charging one of the high officials in His Highness' service with receiving a bribe of from 50 to 60 thousand rupees from the Begums of the Salar Jung family which I referred to in one of my letters some time ago—has been revived. The "Deccan Times" in its issue of the 2nd instant writes of this in the strain of one assured of the truth of it—and says that it refrains from passing any comments upon it as the matter is *sub-judice.* A more serious charge than this has never been made against one of the highest officials in the State—and it is incumbent upon the official concerned to disprove the charge in an open manner no less than upon those that have brought it forward to prove it. The stability, if not the usefulness of an administration, depends much upon the reputation, for purity that it has. And when the purity comes to be questioned and charges of corruption are brought against individual members of it openly and no attempt is made to disprove those charges it needs no lynx-eye to see that it is in a fair way to extinction.

Hyderabad, *20th June, 1891.*

Since writing to you last, two events have occurred here—each important in its own way. The birth of a son and heir to the Nawab Sir Asman Jah Bahadur has considerably altered the prospects conjured up by the fertile imagination of near relatives who have long cast longing looks on the large estates he owns. And the death of Mr. Sherieful Hassam, one of Judges of the City High Court, at Hudgi, has re-opened the question of the appointment of a Hindu to the High Court Bench. It seems to me extremely unlikely that this matter will receive due consideration at the hands of the authorities, that it stands a better chance of a happy solution now than it did when Mr. Ekbal Ali went away with the "determination" of never rejoining His Highness's service. Then, the powers-that-be did not deny that it was anything but bare justice that the vast majority of the Hindus in these Dominions should be represented in the High Court, or that a capable representative could be found in the service. Yet not only were they unwilling to do justice to the Hindus, but they set up the plea that a sixth Judge was one too many for the High Court and ordered that the vacancy should not be filled up but to get back Ekbal Ali as the sixth Judge soon afterwards—and they do not seem to have given themselves time to think how foolish they looked when they stultified themselves in this fashion. What is there, I ask, to prevent them from acting similarly now—from abolishing the office for the time being on the score of its being a superfluity and reviving it when a favourite—and I am sure he will not be long in coming—turns up? Were I sure that they would act differently, that they would listen to reason and justice I should mention the names of Mr. Raghunath Pershad, B. A., Rai Murlidhar, Rai Hukumchand, M. A., as being those eligible for the office and ask the Government to appoint one of these thereto.

The circular issued by the Home Secretary to the Native papers in Hyderabad, which you copied from the *Deccan Times* some days back, defines very clearly the character of the

despotism that guides the destinies of over ten millions of His Highness's subjects. To expect any Editor to discharge the duty he owes to himself no less than to the public after binding himself not to publish anything that may "threaten an injury to a Government servant" or "tend to prejudice the mind of the people against His Highness the Nizam's Government or any of its officers" is to expect him to accomplish what is impossible; and to think that any man with a modicum of self-respect will subscribe to such a ridiculous "agreement" is to count too much upon the hectoring or terrorising policy the Home Secretary has hitherto pursued. If this circular has been called for—I mean if the officials cannot afford to stand a moment without the "thick coating" that mercenary writers can invest them with for a consideration, if their doings are such as cannot bear the light of day—what becomes of the tall talk that all that the people in power do is fair, that there are data for each document issued, and good reasons for each step taken. The Nawab Medhi Hassan evidently mistook his vocation and the master he would have to serve when he entered the service of His Highness the Nizam—a prince who has "so much" to do with an enlightened people like the English and a liberal Government like theirs. What an acquisition he might have been as a censor of the Press under the Czar of all the Russia. But then I forget that in Russia people do not rise by flattery and wield power without intelligence.

Here is a case of *zoolum*, or rather snobbishness resulting in *zoolum*, that recently came to my knowledge. A Police Ameen was some time ago sent by a superior officer from one Taluq to another to inspect some office work. Being a perfect stranger to the place the Ameen had to put up while there in a shed. One day while seated in this shed, which served the purpose of a dining-room, a bed room and an office room, looking over some papers, he "received" from a gentleman holding the rank of a Major what might be termed a surprise visit. Either because his back was turned towards him and he could not see him or because he had never been introduced to him who, for

ought he knew, might have been the Governor General of India or a European servant of a *Sahib* or a Nawab—the Ameen did not go down on his knees to the Major. And what do you think, Mr. Editor, the poor fellow has deserved for this? The Major could not brook this insolence and reported it to superior authorities with the result that the Ameen has been suspended for *three months.* Can snobbishness and authoritative stolidity go further?

Under instructions from the great Home Secretary contained in his letter No. 183, dated the 25th Shaval, the City Cotwal has issued an urgent circular (No. 4956) to the Editors of some of the vernacular papers characterising their failure to send their papers to the Home Secretary in spite of his being a subscriber thereto and calling upon them to send their papers regularly or to "show cause" for unwillingness to do so. This circular is noteworthy as being issued by the City Cotwal under instructions from the Home Secretary. What has the Cotwal to do with newspapers? And why, should he, of all, be made the medium of communication between Editors of Newspapers and the Home Secretary? These are questions that need to be answered by the authorities or those who have the "honor of being in their confidence.

I wrote to you some time ago how a prominent nobleman in the city amused himself at times—how he in the guise of a woman sold toddy at a gold mohur a *lothi* to his friends and admirers on festive occasions. I have since learnt that there is another amusement in which he indulges as much as in this. He is fond, I am informed, of a game called *Chausar* which is played by means of three dice and eight wooden pieces representing an equal number of men and women. There is nothing extraordinary or amusing in this I admit—but then his way of playing the game is *so* original. He hates having to deal with inanimate men and women—and so he moves about on his *Chausar* board eight women picked from the dancing girl class and eight men from among his companions—all in flesh and

blood. I can mention the names of the companions who move on the *Chausar* board with as much ease and grace as in public places—but I must not wound susceptibilities unnecessarily.

Betrothals in the highest circles of the Hyderabad nobility are very much talked of—and the talk finds expression in a paragraph in a recent issue of the *Mahboob-al-kuloof*, a local Urdu paper. And these promise to be very interesting as in the first place the "parties" are of very tender ages the most important of them being not over 2 years of age, and in the second place the means employed to bring about them are not common place. An influential man seems to have been engaged to act the part of the ordinary female *mushata* (go-between) to negotiate terms between the families concerned—and he is to be paid a big fee a portion of which, I am told, has already changed hands.

I wrote to you in my last about the rumour charging a high official with having received bribes to the extent of about Rs. 55,000 from the Begums of the Salar Jung family. This affair since assumed serious proportions—and a Commission has been appointed to inquire into the charge.

HYDERABAD, *27th June, 1891.*

The Home Secretary's Gagging Circular has borne fruit already. The *Shaukat-ul-Islam,* an Urdu paper published within the Moglai limits, has been suppressed for refusing to sign the agreement sent round and commenting thereon in strong, but by no means undeserved terms. This action on the part of the *Mushtak-Mehdi Hussan* Government, *their* organ attempts to justify in its issue of yesterday's date. And this is its "justification." To "our" notions the circular might be "bad law"—*that does not matter*—but the punishment inflicted on the Editor who refused to obey it is quite 'legal' for in the absence of any Press Act the sovereign authority which grants a license to start a paper can revoke it if it likes, and the refusal to obey an order must needs be punished. I wonder how the punishment is "legal." Did the circular—I mean "the bad law"—declare that refusal to sign the agreement which seeks to enslave the Press or rather public opinion, on the part of any Editor, would be followed by the suppression of his paper? is every means resorted to by an administration to provide against any ugly exposure, "legal"? The present Government has in season and out of season claimed to be the best Government Hyderabad has had, has ever professed to be actuated by nothing but considerations for the well-being of the people and has always declared itself to be ready to turn itself 'inside out' if necessory to prove its honesty of purpose. How the measure promulgated by the circular which no previous Government found it necessary to adopt, and the punishment inflicted on the independent man who refused to be "muzzled" thereby—are consistent with this claim, this profession and this declaration, I wish to know. If it is true that every line that appears in the local papers or in the mofussil ones on Hyderabad affairs is translated into Urdu by an establishment kept up for the purpose for the benefit of His Excellency the Minister, I wish he would see an explanation for this glaring inconsistency furnished to the public.

I hitherto gave the Nawab Mehdi Hussan credit for keen-sightedness, but I see now that I was mistaken. He seems to

be quite at a loss to understand the circumstances amidst which he is placed, to read the signs of the times in which he finds himself possessed of enormous power. Does he know that Hyderabad has not been at a stand-still for a quarter of a century, that days when any wickedness and injustice could be perpetrated safe from the eyes of the people or authority belong to ancient history, now that public opinion—it does not matter by whom guided—is gaining in volume and strength day by day, that agitation for justice which was an unknown factor formerly has given his Government endless trouble? If he does, it is impossible to comprehend how he could commit the blunder of issuing a circular with a view to gag the Moglai Press, and aggravate it by suppressing the paper, the Editor of which had the honesty and moral courage to protest against it.

Again the claims of the vast majority of the Hindus of these Dominions to be represented on the City High Court Bench, have been disregarded. A Mahomedan, Mr. Yaseenkhan of the Berar Commission, has been, subject to the sanction of the Supreme Government, appointed to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Sharief-ul-Hussan. In noticing this, the *Deccan Standard* complacently remarks that there "can be no feeling of favouritism" after the nomination of a stranger to the post. Considering the exceeding hurry in which the appointment has been made it is hard to see how there "can be no feeling of favouritism" abroad—to believe the appointment to be anything else than a *job*.

Though the men in power take pretty good that none but the favored few are admitted to their confidence, yet their secrets get out—some how—now and then, mostly in the shape of rumours, and reveal to us how they seek to strengthen themselves. And this is really fortunate. Some time ago the *Safiri Dekhan*, an Urdu daily published within the Residency limits, wrote a leader severely commenting on the action of the Government in the city "murder case. This annoyed the Minister" so much, a rumour says, that he wrote to the Resident requesting

him to suppress the *Safiri*. What effect this letter had upon the Resident, the rumour does not say ; but it is not likely that he would go out of his way to oblige even the Minister, for he must know how one of his predecessors suppressed an English Journal published within the Residency limits and how he was pitched into for this by the Supreme Government. Whether there is any truth in this rumour or not, this much is certain, that the articles above referred to caused much knashing of teeth in the official circles. Soon after the publication of it Moulvi Sad-ud-deen, the proprietor of the *Safiri Dekhan*, was summoned before a high official and tsked to tender an apology for the statements made in the leader and publish a contradiction thereto. The Moulvi refused to do anything of the sort and wished that the high official would put in writing what he wanted him (the Moulvi) to do. Perhaps the upshot of this was the communication which rumour speaks of as having been addressed to the Resident by the Minister. Another and a still higher official also played a part. From the heights of Olympus —I mean Mahableshwar—the "Jehova, Jove or Lord" of Hyderabad thundered against the poor Moulvi-Sad-ud-deen. He wrote to him to say that he had forfeited his favour by publishing the article on the City Murder case, that after seeing it in his paper he could not but withdraw his patronage from him. Even if he were a private gentleman and not an official, the mighty official continued, he would have felt called upon to take the step he took—and wound up by saying "Yeh umda our pakizah zaban Abki Abkan mobarik rahai" that is "May such elegant and choice language (as that used in the leader) ever stand you in good stead." I may state *en passant* that I have had the leader in question translated to me, and I find the language though strong quite called for by the occasion.

GULBURGA, *5th July*, 1891.

It is said that in a multitude of councillors there is wisdom. It is rather difficult to believe this, seeing that such an intelligent body of men as the Government of India find it easier to do a wrong thing than to do a right one, does at times exactly what it ought not to do—at all events what it is inadvisable to do. What we have heard of "Political Agents" does not reveal them to be the largest minded of rulers or the most forbearing of men. Mr. Chatterjee's journalistic experiences at Mhow, and the exposure of Sir Lepel Griffin in the columns of the "Amirta Bazaar Patrika" have shown what autocrats these are in their respective 'spheres' and how desirable it is that their power should be curtailed and they should be restrained from presuming too much. Yet the Government of India would make them custodians of public opinion 'in places administered by the Governor-General, but not forming part of British India'—would invest them with the power to withhold or withdraw permission to edit, print or publish a newspaper just as they like it, and to 'expel forcibly' any one who edits, prints or publishes a newspaper without their permission! Verily the fates favour the wrong men.

I called upon a British authority in one of the 'places administered by the Governor-General, but not forming part of British India' recently in connection with the permission applied for previously to start a newspaper therein; and it might interest your readers to know what transpired at the interview. Being ushered into the authority's presence, I was asked what I wanted. I explained to him the object of my visit; and he said:

"I don't think you will get the permission."

"Why?" I asked. "can you assign reasons for thinking so?"

"Yes" said he. "We don't want to have a paper of the sort here."

"Is it so?" I asked.

"Yes—it is so" said he. "We don't want such a paper, and that is the reason why you will not get permission to start it. Is not the reason clear enough?"

And I had to admit that "the reason was clear enough" and bid him good morning and got out. What a wowerful instrument for smothering the public voice, the recent order of the Government of India will furnish politicals such as this with, it is easy to understand.

Next Tuesday full two years will have elapsed since the death of Sir Salar Jung II. And this puts me in mind of all that the Salar Jung family has suffered since the death of the Nawab Munier-ul-mulk Bahadur and the pitiable condition it is in now. Of what avail was it that the highest personage in these Dominions constituted himself the guardian of the infant son of Sir Salar Jung II? Of what avail was it that he appointed a committee to manage the estates of the family and laid down rules for the guidance thereof? Sir Asman Jah, a nobleman not particularly well disposed towards the family, became the medium of communication between His Highness the Nizam and the committee of management of the estates. An official not overburdened with a sense of gratitude to the family for favours done by it in the past, turned up to be the master of the situation. And the result has proved to be disastrous to the interests of the family. Its right to the Meeralum Tank, one of its coveted possessions came to be questioned on the flimsiest grounds. A creature of the Government's, came to be appointed at the head of the committee of management. The only man on the Committee who could work on behalf of the family was 'worried' till he resigned his membership. Lady Salar Jung II was reduced to a nonentity within the palace walls—and her infant son, the 'rightful' owner of all the estates was left to take care of himself. Jealousy began to work mischief amongst the lady members of the family—and

split them into two parties. One of the parties headed by the elder daughter of Sir Salar Jung I—if a rumour that has been current here for several months and led to the appointment of the bribery commission is to be believed—subscribed about Rs.40,000 and called upon lady Salar Jung, to contribute Rs.15,000 towards the sum to be paid to a high official, with a view to secure some privileges ; and Lady Salar Jung II not having the cash delivered over jeweilery to the value of the amount asked of her. Thus is it that the Salar Jung family has come to its present pass,—in spite of the Nizam—and it remains to be seen what steps will be taken by His Highness to set matters right.

We have it on the authority of the Government organ that Mr. Mahomed Yaseenkhan appointed to the High Court Judgship created vacant by the death of Mr. Sherieful Hussain, is a brother of Mr. Mahomed Amjad Ali, Taluqdar of customs, Hyderabad.

The Nawab Vicar-ul-Mulk Bahadur passes this station on his way to Hyderabad this afternoon. Whatever may be the character of the welcome he expects from those who belong to his party—and one at least of them has been very much wishing his speedy return—he cannot be unaware of the fact that his return to resume duties will be unwelcome news to many in Hyderabad. And what this is due, the clever Nawab knows—at any rate ought to know—as well as any one else in these Dominions. He has been looked upon as an alien who monopolizing all real power in the land, has studiously ignored or disregarded the claims of the sons of the soil, and benefitted himself and his creatures in every possible way. Now that he is in sound health again, if he does not adopt a new line of conduct and act so as to remove this wide-spread impression regarding himself and thus strengthen his position in the service it will be his own fault.

GULBURGA, *July*, 13.

The Nawab Vicarul-mulk Bahadur broke his journey here for a few hours, on Sunday, the 5th intant. He was accompanied by the Hon'ble Syed Ameer Husain of Calcutta—who is now in Hyderabad as the very hospitable Nawab Bashier-ud-Dowlah's guest enjoying a round of festivities—and was received by most of the big officials in the place. I was also on the platform. The mighty Nawab looked poorly in health far from being in a condition to attend to his many onerous duties. You need not be told that, though in name he is only the Revenue Secretary, he has control over all the departments in the State—and I wondered that he should have changed the cool heights of Mahableshwar or the invigorating climate of Bombay for the unhealthy atmosphere of Hyderabad. But then, I had not tasted the sweets of power like him and could not understand that power might be dearer to a person than health itself. To speak of the state of things in Hyderabad: some of his officials, his right-hand men, stand charged with serious offences; and the Nawab has need to be more than usually cautious and show himself to be impartial, if he values his position under the Government. It is too late in the day to say "if the critics were in my position they could not have acted differently from me—having accepted service in the State I must not mind the praises or the abuses of people" and expect people to put up with every kind of injustice and insult. The British Lion is watching—and he avenges wrongs sooner or later.

Some have been curious to know who the British authority is that could think of disposing of an application for permission to start a newspaper with a curt "we don't want a paper of the sort, so you will not get the permission to start it." The authority is Mr. Crawford, the first Assistant Resident. I wrote to him on a certain day asking him for an appointment to see him in connection with the permission applied for to start a newsprper. The appointment was duly made—and what transpired at the interview I had with him on the appointed day, at

the appointed hour, I have already told your readers. Well, returning from the interview, I put down on paper the particulars of the interview and sent it to Mr Crawford with a letter to the effect ; "I have noted down on another paper the particulars of the interview I had with you this morning. Please look through and let me know if I have omitted anything that you may like to be mentioned and oblige. If by Friday next I do not receive a reply I shall consider myself at liberty to send to the papers my account of the interview as being strictly faithful." And this elicited, *mirabile dictu*, an official document from the Extra Assistant Resident's Office informing me, *in reply to my letter regarding the permission*, that the application for permission would be placed before the Resident for orders. I could not for the life of me understand what the document meant, for I had never written to Mr. Crawford about the permission, the only letter written to him being the one asking for appointment in connection with it to which I had received a reply making an appointment. All this about the British authority's proceedings sounds so funny that, I am sure, your readers will enjoy the reading of it.

I told you in my last that the right of the Salar Jung family to the Meer Alum Tank, one of its coveted possessions, had been questioned by the present Minister on the flimsiest of grounds. The 'grounds' are worth noticing. The tank was constructed long ago by the Nawab Meer Alum, whose name it bears,—not by public subscriptions but at his own cost. And if it came to be used by the public, it was thus. The Nawab Meer Alum, out of loyalty to his sovereign and consideration for his friends, allowed water to be drawn from the tank for the use of the Nizam and certain noblemen in the city. And later on when the people applied to him for permission to draw water from it for irrigating the fields underlying it, he was public-spirited and generous enough to grant the permission. In consideration of the good derived by the people from the tank, the Government of His Highness the Nizam ordered that its repair, whenever

it should need it, should, be executed and paid for out of the public funds—and, if I am correctly informed, the order is up to date being acted up to. These facts had evidently no significance in the eyes of Sir Asmanjah. As soon as he became the medium of communication between His Highness and the committee of management of the Salar Jung estates—and I may tell you that he has never been known to let grass grow under his feet—he brought it to the notice of the Commitece that the tank did not belong to the Salar Jung family but was public property, for, he said, it had been used by the people and its repairs had been carried out by the Government for a long time. How could such things have been had the tank belonged to the Salar Jung family? And this but showed that it had been constructed by public subscriptions. Sir Asmanjah's line of reasoning is "wondrous" to be sure. But it is doubtful whether he would appreciate it himself in all circumstances. Basheer Bagh has been, almost since its construction, used for housing the guests of the State, and its repairs have been more than once attended to by the Government in its Public Works Department. Now what would Sir Asmanjah say if the people said, "Basheer Bagh is not your property, but ours. It has been used as a Government-house every now and then and its repairs have been carried out more than once by the Government—and how could these things have been if it belonged to you?" Would the just and impartial Nawab relish this argument?

At no time have we been wanting in slaves who could put their necks to the yoke readily and without a murmur and even commend the galling effects thereof. Following close upon the spectacle presented by the independent "Shaukat Islam" refusing to dance to the tune of an unscrupulous Government and suffering thereof, we have the sight of the *Mahboob-ul-kuloof* cheerfully putting on slavery of praising the strength of the chain binding him and testifying to the salutary results thereof. The *Kuloof* has within the last few days posed as a champion of the Gagging Circular—and a smart critic of the *Rozyar* who is

too stupid to understand what is good and the "Islam" who is too conceited to obey what will do him good. Too prudent *Kuloof* ! Truly if fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind— a servile spirit renders us wondrous blind !

GULBURGA, 20*th July,* 1891.

I very much regret to have to record the death, at Edinburgh, on the 2nd Instant, of Mrs. Littledale, for some time the Head-mistress of the Hyderabad Zenana School. She was an extraordinary lady in many respects, and under favourable circumstances she might have been of immense service to the Indian society and might have left a name and example not easily to be forgotten. Blessed with an extremely liberal minded father she passed her early years away from the mischievous influences of the Hindu nursery, amidst very enlightened surroundings and up to the close of her short life she remained a vivid expression thereof. Her letters written to her brother, studying in England, while only 13 or 14 years of age, and one on the Hindu society published over her signature by the "London Spectator" sometime after that reveal her to be, if not a genius, at least one who, had her lot been cast in England, could have influenced the minds of 'her generation' considerably. And if her marriage with an Englishman was possible at a time when Hindu conservatism was much more powerful than now, it was because of the rare moral courage she showed as much as of the liberal-mindedness wich enabled her father Dr. Atmaram Pandurang, to withstand the onslaughts of custom and bigotry. But unfortunately this marriage proved unhappy, and left Mrs. Littledale very little of the *will* to do any useful work. She came to Hyderabad when the Zenana School was started in connection with the Hyderabad branch of the National Indian Association,—and if with the Nawab Imadul-Mulk Bahadur, the Director of Public Instruction, originated the idea of this unique institution, to her wholly belongs the credit of working it out. Her way of making lessons interesting as well as her manner attracted pupils; and she was loved by her "girls" as she used to call the pupils of her school, as much as she was respected and admired for her "cleverness" by all that knew her. She was compelled by continued ill-health to resign her appointment and leave for Bombay and therefrom to England; but we little thought when she left us that in a few

months she would be no more. She wrote the greater part of the concordance published by her husband several years ago of the two plays he had discovered to be Shakespeare's and not Beaumont and Fletcher's as generally believed. And she was a frequent contributor to the local papers while here; her happy translations from German poets—I may tell you she knew German, and Italian besides English—and letters on various subjects over the signature of "Lotus Flower" were ever looked forward to by her readers. The one thing she used to be enthusiastic about just before she bade us good-bye was travelling together with Pandita Ramabai in disguise to distant places visiting scenes of historical importance all over India and writing a book thereon. What good results might have been accomplished thus we could not say. But she who conceived the plan sleeps on a distant shore far off from home and country amidst the roar of waters that never sleep. May she rest in peace!

If it is true that generally Englishmen leave behind at home their liberalism and sense of justice when they start for India to serve the Indian Government, it is equally true that they unlearn most of what they have learnt, the efficiency with which they have worked elsewhere or cease to care to be useful and be worthy of their 'hire' when they enter the service of this unfortunate state. Many Englishmen have come and gone, have been in service and have retired from it on liberal pensions; but such of them as have done justice to their duties, or discharged them as well as they could or would under the British Government—have been very few indeed. But to come to the point I have in view: His Highness the Nizam's Public Works Department is the most advantageously-placed Department in the State. It is all under English management. Yet it is worse than most of the other departments of the State in respect of the quality and quantity of work it turns out. We are not lacking in highly-paid officers and assistants, nor are the budget allotments made by the Government with a niggardly hand. But how all the "talent" in the department is engaged,

and what becomes of the large budget grants, nobody seems to know or care to know. Work, that can be and is done, and done satisfactorily, by a supervisor and four or five overseers in the British Provinces—is here in the hands of a divisional Engineer on about Rs. 900, a District Engineer on about Rs. 500 and an Irrigational Engineer on 400, with an endless number of subordinates and assistants. But how this small amount of work is carried out by this large staff it is interesting to note. Except in some Divisional and District head-quarters, of roads worthy of the name there are none in the districts. Many of them are in such a wrecked condition that it is a wonder that man walks on them and beasts draw loaded carts over them, I am not indulging in exaggeration—I have stated simply facts, facts that I challenge anybody in the department to gainsay. And yet the District Engineer is hard at work all during the year, the Divisional Engineer, who all through the year is occupied with receiving reports from the District office and sorting them to the Head Office, superintends once a year, and the Superintending Engineer the Secretary to the Government in the department, makes an annual tour. How each of these officers is satisfied with the work he has inspected, it is impossible to understand. If there be too little work to keep engaged all the hands in the department, and I know at least one Divisional Engineer who has the frankness to confess that he gets pay for no work done—why not reduce their number? And if there be enough of work for all what is there that prevents the Head of the department from seeing that this work is satisfactorily done, that the money devoted thereto is not wasted? I shall have more to say about this department in future letters.

Of late much has been written in the Madras papers about police *zoolum* in the Mofussils of your Presidency. But the state of things which attracted so much attention there cannot be as bad as that here. Of police *zoolum* as it prevails in the Districts of these Dominions, those that have the "misfortune" to live in the Mofussil there cannot have an idea. If a man is wise or values his time he will not go to "the custodians of

peace" with a complaint. But if he is "tired" of peace and wishes to make life itself a "burden," he may publish his losses and cry for justice. One has only to report a case of theft or violence to turn the knights of the baton against him. They constitute themselves his accusers and annoy him and oppress him to such an extent as to make him retire a 'wiser and sadder' man. To iltustrate what I have said above, I may mention two incidents of recent occurrence here. A thief broke into a house one night, and when he had possessed himself of the gold bangles of a young boy an alarm was raised: he got on the roof of the house, jumped therefrom in hot haste aad escaped as best as he could. Bvt no report of this was made to the police—and that in spite of the big blood marks discovered in front of the house the next morning and the foot-prints which clearly pointed to the thief having wounded himself and been dragged away by his accomplices—for fear of *zoolum*. The second instance is furnished by a number of shop-keepers who, being robbed of about Rs. 20,000 in a fair, preferred to hold their peace about it to breathing a word of it to the police.

The following amusing scene was enacted in an office here sometime ago. An East-Indian Surveyor sent to the office accountant, who, by the bye, is a native, a draft with the words written thereon—" Accountant, copy this and send it to me for signature." The accountant who had evidently taken the proper measure of the surveyor's impertinence, scored through the words with red ink, wrote underneath to say—" Surveyor, you had better copy it yourself"—and sent it back to the person concerned. The Surveyor could not brook the insult offered by the native, and so he reported the matter to the accuntant's superior, who was also his superior, with the result that the accountant was sent for and addressed : " How could you offend Mr. —— like that ? He belongs to the executive and may rise to be a District Engineer." On this the accountant cooly replied : I might also rise to be Accountant-General." The moral of this scarcely needs pointing out.

GULBURGA, *July 27th.*

The Government organ gives its readers to understand that "the Deccan Times" has notified to its staff that the paper will stop publication on the 31st instant." This is very bad news. Though not persistent and consistent in its advocacy of popular interests, the "Deccan Times" has been in a way a check on the rashness or inclination to do wrong of individual officials or cliques in the State. That this check is about to be removed, will no doubt cause jubilation in the midst of those who are in the least degree sensitive of public criticism. They will no longer have a local critic; the people will have to seek the aid of distant journals to publish their grievances, and the journalists not being on the spot can be heckled for their ignorance for giving publicity to the misrepresentations of interested parties; and the time that must elapse between the commission of an offence and its exposure by them can be expected to weaken their advocacy. What a satisfaction this must be to wrong-doers—and to the "Deccan Standard" who can say, at least *locally*, "I am Sir Oracle, and when I open my lips let no dogs bark?" What the official mouth-piece choose to call the "ostensible reason"—"The unwillingness or inability of the proprietor to carry on the paper under the new order" of the Government of India—must surely, be regarded as the real reason for the "Times" notificato its staff. For how can one with any feeling of safety work a paper claiming to be independent under the new, uncalled-for and arbitrary rules?

In connection with His Highness the Nizam's Public Works Department, the following questions put by "X" in a local paper may interest your readers:—

"How is it that the Engineers in H. H. the Nizam's service cannot ride and they require palkis, tongas and carts to go on inspecting works?

How is it that the Engineers in H. H. the Nizam's P. W. D. seldom attend to their executive work and never go out for months and years together?

How is it that some Engineers in H. H. the Nizam's service ill-treat their subordinates by sitting in the office with them and teasing them like school boys ?

How is it that some District Engineers in the Nizam's service deal with money transactions unknown to the Accountants? Who are the responsible parties for any error in the accounts, &c., and can an Engineer deal with such transactions during the holidays and the absence of accounts !"

I paid a visit to all the schools in the station yesterday—and I am glad that I did so. I was able to see what one single individual has done in about three years, and form an idea as to what even one man could do backed up by perseverance and energy in the face of prejudice and ignorance. About three years and a half ago there was only one school in the place with a population of about60,000; and this school had in its rolls 180 boys receiving instruction in three departments of 4 English classes, 3 Urdu classes, and 2 Maharati classes respectively. How this queer system worked it is needless to enquire. It is enough to know that Mr. T. Sreenivasa Charria, Headmaster of the High School, on being appointed at the head of this school of three distinct departments with 2, 4 and 3 teachers respectively, saw the defects, if not the evil, of the system and with the permission of the Director of Public Instruction submitted an elaborate scheme suggesting the establishment of one Ehglish school and several vernacular primary and secondary schools in the different centres of population of this scattered town as its feeders. The scheme though very sensible, came somehow to be condemned by the authorities concerned in the first instance. About a year afterwards, that is about three years ago, it was again submitted; and this time good counsels prevailed and sanction was granted. And to the working of this system is due what I saw yerterday, an English High School about 130 strong, and Primary and Secondary Vernacular Schools all over the town containing over 750 boys, where there

were only 180 boys receiving an apology for education three years and ten months before. This is not all the educational work that Mr. Sreenivasa Charriar has done. He has also established 7 girls' schools, with nearly 300 girls on the rolls. For all this, Mr. Acharyar has been paid remarkably well by his department—and it is *thus*. The roport on public instruction issued a few months ago not only does not mention his name with the names of those who have done their duty satisfactorily, but ignores his remarkably good work in female education in these words: "No female schools have as yet been opened in the southern (Gulburga) . . . Division," while recording the yearly grant of Rs. 1,123 accorded by the Government therefor. Verily "kissing" goes by favour;

HYDERABAD, *3rd August, 1891.*

A communication which appears in the last issue of the "Deccan Standard" under the heading of "A word about politics," is worth noticing. In it the writer, who is, we are told by the editor, "a European and away in the Districts and not in the Nizam's service or employ" reads a very important lesson to his brethren in his Highness the Nizam's Dominions, which, it is to be hoped, will not be lost on them. Now, a European considers himself to be a superior being in this State as in other Native States in India. He serves a Native Prince for a big salary, he lives within the jurisdiction of his Government on account of the advantages that he cannot dream of obtaining at the hands of a European Government, but to the laws of the Prince he is not amenable. He is a servant and subject; and yet his master and sovereign cannot sit in judgment over him. This is a singular anomaly, but it exists in the Native States because of the supreme power of the British Government, and is allowed to exist by the *backbonelessness,* if I may use the term, of the native rulers. And to this the writer of the article above referred to directs his attention. "If Europeans do not like the Nizam's laws" says he, "they are not compelled to submit to them. They may stay where more benign law holds sway." Quite so. To claim equal privileges or rather to enjoy equal advantages with the subjects of Native Princes and yet refuse to be bound by the laws that bind them is as reasonable as it is just on the part of the Supreme Government to support and sanction it. And the reasonableness, as well as the justice, passeth all understanding. The writer then proceeds to point out the necessity for the Nizam's Government to recognise ordained Missionaries as Registrars of marriages, Recorders of deaths, births, &c—for, to use his own words, "we also doubt if Missionaries holding licenses from the British Government to perform marriage ceremonies between British subjects, European or native, have any right whatever thereunder to go into the districts, and, as is now being done, perform the operation upon purely Nizam's subjects under purely British licenses"—

and the desirability of passing an Act similar to the British Religious Property Act by which Missionary Societies can hold property in these Dominions. He winds up with the following lines which I make no apology for quoting:—

"We think some adjustments should be made which would definitely recognize the loyalty of the European, whoever he be; and that he should on his part, in perfect good faith, recognize the justice of the Government, as we do with alacrity all its openings for employment and emolument. As long as Europeans continue to repudiate the application of the Nizam's laws to themselves, this want of confidence will be construed into an affront, (we think justly) by the Nizam's Government. We are inclined to think the frankest recognition of the Nizam's legal Institutions and laws on the part of all Europeans in the Dominions, will be reciprocated by the extension of all the advantages the Government can extend to anybody, to all Europeans also severally and collectively.

We are suffering from the "Jap re-action" at the present time. It remains for Europeans to cordially shew their faith and friendship, and find in the Nizam of Hyderabad, the "faithful Ally" of all civilized nations.

A case, reminding one of the "famous" Sowar case, has been for some weeks past before Major-General Campbell, Judge of the Suburban Court here. It cropped up, according to the complainants, thus: On the 20th of May last Lieutenants Sexton and Brewster, who had gone into the districts for *Shikareeying* were encamped at Palikonda in the Indore District. At near dusk, two Arabs in the service of the Nawab Torwar Jung Ashrafud-Dowla Bahadur—one of whom is an aged man proved to be of very good character and to have acted as Tahsildar for near 30 years—went to the officers, seated a few yards from their tents, and asked them if they wanted bulls (for the purpose of carrying their luggage evidently). The Lieutenants said 'Yse' and asked them to fetch the bulls immediately, on which the

Arabs in an insolent tone told them that they had not paid for some articles got from the villagers. This exasperated the officers, but they did not give outward expression to it in any way, and like the good and reasonable men that they were they explained away the unfounded charge, when one of the Arabs drew a sword and the other produced a pistol and assaulted them and would have caused them more grievous bodily injury than they did sustain, but for their strength and the help rendered by their servants, one of them had the remarkable courage to flee away at the sight of the sword. So runs the complainants version—a version which one cannot help accepting with a big grain of salt considering that some men, Arabs though they be, do not draw swords and level pistols at one without the least provocation. Out of these "incidents" arose the case, the Arab assault case, in which judgment has recently been delivered. General Campbell found the accused guilty of causing grievous hurt to Lieutenants Sexton and Brewster and sentenced them each to five years' rigorous imprisonment on Saturday last.

The ceremony of betrothal or the *mangani* as it is called here, between the eldest sister of the Nizam and the Nawab Imaum Jung Bahadur, the elder son of the Nawab Sir Kurshedjah Bahadur, began the day before yesterday and comes to a close this evening. On the 1st instant, Sir Kurshedjah Bahadur accompanied by the Nawabs Zaffer Jung and Vicar-ul Umra went on foot with all his retinue to the Chau Mahala Palace and presented the Nizam the usual *nazur* of about 120 gold mohurs, if I am rightly informed, and it was accepted—the acceptance signifying His Highness's willingness to give his sister in marriage to the person for whom her hand had been solicited. Yesterday the bridegroom's party paid a visit to the Palace; this evening the bride's party return the visit; and this closes the ceremony. The marriage itself is expected to come off in November, and that it will be characterised by great pomp and magnificence, goes without saying.

The marriage of one of His Highness's daughters with the Nawab Zafer Jung Bahadur, the younger son of Sir Kurshedjah Bahadur, is also talked of.

His Excellency the Minister has accorded his sanction to raising the Aurungabad High School to the status of a second grade College. The widom of this step is not apparent. When the only College in His Higaness's Dominions and that in the capital, gets but 'half rations' with several well-managed High Schools about the place to feed it, it is not difficult to conceive what sort of an existence the College in Aurungabad will have without even a single High School in the District—of course excepting its own High School Department—to do so. But the Hyderabad Educational Department is divine—and it can create something even out of nothing. Sometime ago I saw a circular sent round by the Nawab Imad-ul-Dowlah Bahadur, our Director of Public Instruction, to the effect that six scholarships had been founded by the Government and that they would be offered annually to the first six matriculates, from a Government or an aided school, in these Dominions. And I was wishing to congratulate those that had hud a hand in this—one could easily see what an impetus this would give to the spread of higher education here—when I heard of the sanction above referred to. The step is a most ill-advised one, and if it tends to anything at all it will be to hamper the hands of the heads of the only First grade College here, namely, the Nizam College.

HYDERABAD, 11*th August, 1891.*

You will remember the case of the Rajasahib of the ancient Samasthan of Anagondi, of which I gave a short account in these columns several weeks ago. It would seem impossible to reach the Nizam's ears on the matter. The Rajasahib wired, on the 2nd and 3rd June last, to His Highness, then encamped at Warangul, stating how he had been reduced to his present pitiable condition by the powers-that-be and 'imploring His Highness to come to his relief.' No notice has as yet been taken of these telegrams; and as it is incredible that His Highness has all of a sudden lost interest in the welfare of his Rajas and subjects, the question naturally arises whether he saw or rather was allowed to see them at all. We have, before this heard of papers meant for His Highness disappearing on their way to their destination in a most mysterious fashion. Is it that even the two telegrams have gone the way of these?

The telegrams run thus:—

"Your Highness's Government has ordered the withdrawal of my judical powers. My repeated representations both to Government and to your Highness have remained unnoticed. My *samasthan* has been attached for arrears of *peishcush* newly levied against long established custom; and now the greatest insult is offered to me by withdrawing my powers. The Government do not allow a single pie from the revenue of the *samasthan* towards the maintenance of my personal comforts and dignity. I and my people have only your Highness to protect our honour and life. I beg your Highness to personally investigate my case and grant me the justice that I have sought for in vain from your officers. All indignities offered to me, a prince of your Highness's realm, are so many affronts to your Highness's own person. Again I implore your Highness to come to my relief."

"In continuation of my telegram of yesterday, I beg to place the following particulars before your Highness: In 1297

Fasli the question of the succession to the Anagondi *gadi* came before your Highness's Government. Although some of the officials of your Highness's Government were opposed to the measure, your Highness was graciously pleased to save the old *gadi* from extinction by recognising me as the head of the *samasthan*. In carrying out your Highness's orders the Minister saddled the *samasthan* with an annual peishcush of Rs. 10,000. I represented that this *peishcush* was against precedent as the *samasthan* was never in the habit of paying any since its transfer to your Highness in 1801. The *samasthan* was however placed under attachment and the Subedhar of the Southern Division directed to visit Anagondi and report on its finances. The Subedhar after due inquiry reported that the *samasthan* was not in a position to pay any *peishcush*. Upon this the Minister increased the *peishcush* from 10,000 to Rs. 18,800 annually with retrospective effect and demanded immediate payment of three years' *peishcush*, I requested the Subedhar by telegram to allow me to manage the *samasthan* till the end of that year 1299 Fasli, pending a representation to your Highness. This the Subedhar declined to do. Mr. Dunlop next visited Anagondi and reported to the Minister the utter 'inability' of the *samasthan* to pay any *peishcush*. This report had no effect. In April 1290, I submitted a representation to your Highness through the Private Secretary, Nawab Imadu-ul-Mulk. The Nawab although repeatedly requested to obtain your Highness's orders, does not seem to have placed my representation before your Highness. On the last occasion the Nawab told my counsel that he might go to the Resident for redress. In 1293 Fasli and subsequently my mother Rani Kuppamma borrowed from Bansi Raja certain monies, the repayment of which was secured to him by means of annual payments from the revenue of Korgat and Sangameshwar, two of my private Inam villages. Bansi Raja having disregarded my frequent demands for a statement of accounts, the further payment of instalments was stopped. Upon this Bansi Raja, with the assistance of Intesar Jung, took forcible possession of the villages. All my letters to the Revenue

Secretary remain unanswered. The difficulties my ryots are put to on account of the tyrannical conduct of Bansi Raja and his *naib* are very great. When the *samasthan* was under the management of your Highness's Government, pervious to 1297 Fasli a picket of Police peons had been stationed at Anagondi. On the restoration of the *samasthan* the Police arrangements were organized by me ; and I requested the withdrawal of the Government picket. Although there has been a lot of correspondence, the Police picket remains stationary. The *samasthan* is forced to pay them, and their idle presence is productive of great mischeif. The last blow has been struck by ordering the withdrawal of my powers. The Minister, advised by Intesar Jung, has all along been trying to annihilate this ancient Hindu *samasthan* which owes its existence to your Highness. I seek your Highness's protection for the restoratian of my rights and, privileges."

Tha *Deccan Punch*, a local Urdu weekly, had in a recent issue of his a leader which tries to show what a greedy, money-loving, unconscionable lot we have in power here. In this article the Editor takes His Highness the Nizam severely to task for purchasing some diamonds *direct* from the merchants and not through his Government. It is remarkable that the *directness*, so to say, of the purchase should be taken objection to by this wise and honest Editor and not the wasting of money over such purchases. The *Punch* is, I am credibly informed, a Government organ edited by an official in receipt of a monthly salary of about Rs. 700, who gets Rs. 8 for each issue of the peper.

Man, it is said, is a helpless being. Even Sir Asmanjah with all his tried and trusted advisers about him, does not seem to be an exception to this rule. He seems to be liable to what are termed 'sharp practices' as much as any other mortal. I am told that the Minister was until recently in blissful ignorance of the history of Mahomed Ali *alias* Zafer Yabkhan and when my paragraph about this individual in one of my previous letters told him the truth, he was in a tearing rage and did not scruple

to rate his 'faithful' advisers soundly for deceiving him by keeping him in the dark about Mahomed Ali's antecedents. 'If this is true, why does not the Nawab Sir Asmanjah rid himself of these advisers ?', it may be asked. Evidently the Nawab cannot get on without them—they are necessary evils that the State has to groan beneath, because it has got for its Minister a man who cannot help himself

The Bribery Commission has been sitting for some weeks past now, and it may sit for sometime longer—but that its enquiries will lead to any satisfactory results seems to be more than ever a hoping against hope. The Nawab Akber Jung Bahadur, our City Kotwal, would have been an extremely useful person on the Commission. He knows and can know all that is going on in the City; and as one in touch with the City people, I may state without meaning any disparagement to Col. Ludlow, he is more competent to conduct an inquiry like the one in question than the Colonel who knows very little of the people and their language. Yet, he has been removed from the Commission.

"They say" said a friend in high position the other day "that Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick is a very clever man, a very intelligent man an astute politician. He may be all that ; but that he can cope with the difficulties of the situation in a country like Hyderabad, is what I cannot believe. You will remember how the non-acceptance of Mushtak Hussain's resignation was brought about. Two of the friends went, one after the other, to Sir Dennis and made Mushtak's resignation out to be a public calamity. Sir Dennis believed them and at an interview with the Nizam he put it to him point-blank if it was true that he meant to send Mushtak Hussain out of service. The Nizam said "No" and according to that 'no' did not accept the resignation. Now, if Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick knew anything about oriental countries, oriental manners and customs, he would not have sought information on the subject of the resignation at an interview. He would have known that the exaggerated notions that orientals entertain of courtesy to a highly-respected

guest prevents the expression of simple truth that may lead to any sort of discussion at a personal interview and would have written to His Highness about the matter and got a reply very different to that which he got at his interview." Much truth there may be in this.

To-day is the great Lunghurday of Mohorrum. All His Highness's regiments pass through certain streets in the city in consideration of the family and rank of particular individuals to-day and give an outsider an opportunity of admiring the regular and the irregular military pagentry—you must remember we have 'irregulars' consisting of sepoys, good, bad and indifferent, tall, short and dwarfish, shoeless and turbandless, *sherwanied* and under-vested, as well as 'regulars'—in this God-governed country.

HYDERABAD, 17*th August* 1891.

The messages wired to His Highness the Nizam on the 2nd and 3rd June last, by the Rajasahib of Anagondi, about the affairs of his principality, which I quoted at length in my last letter—call for a few comments. They draw His Highness' attention to the following facts :—

(1) That a *peishcush* of Rs.10,000 was imposed on the *samasthan* in utter defiance of precedent on the occasion of recognition of the present Raja as its head ;

(2) that the Minister increased the *peishcush* to Rs.18,000 with retrospective effect and demanded the immediate payment of 3 year's *peishcush*, although the Subadar of the Southern Division deputed by the Government to look into the condition of the *samasthan*, had, after careful inquiry, reported its inability to pay *any* peishcush ;

(3) that Mr. Dunlop, Inspector General of Revenue, made a similar report to that of the Subadar to the Government with no effect ;

(4) that several representations made by the Rajahsahib to His Highness, through his Private Secretary, the Nawab Imad-ul-mulk Bahadur, were never placed before His Highness, and that on the last occasion when the Rajahsahib's counsel called upon him, the Nawab plainly told him to go to the Resident for redress ;

(5) that when further instalments towards the liquidation of the debt contracted by the Rajasahib's mother in 1293 Fasli, were stopped because of the creditor Bansi Raja's failure to furnish a statement of accounts, Bansi Raja, with the assistance of the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk, the Revenue Secretary, took forcible possession of the two villages out of the revenues of which his money had been arranged to be paid by annual instalments ;

(6) that the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk has maintained a studious silence in regard to several letters addressed to him on the matter ;

(7) that a police picket productive of great annoyance and mischief has been levied on the Samasthan ;

(8) and that the Minister has taken away all the powers that the Rajas of Anagondi exercised for many decades.

A stronger array of facts has not been, nor can be, produced to prove the arbitrariness of the Minister, and the nature of the advice tendered to him by his arch-adviser the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk—and yet the facts have had little weight here. They reveal a powerful combination against this poor Hindu prince—a combination composed of the Minister, the Revenue Secretary and the Private Secretary to His Highness the Nizam. There is the Revenue Secretary to advise, the Minister to issue orders, the Private Secretary to keep His Highness in the dark about any representations that may be made to him through him ; and thus everything necessary is secured to accomplish ' the annihilation' of this ancient Hindu *samasthan* which owes its existence to His Highness. What has the poor prince done to deserve all this at the hands of these mighty men ? God knows what It is true that he, with a due sense of the dignity of the Rajas of Anagondi, did not go down on his knees at the interview he had with His Excellency Sir Asman Jah Bahadur. But surely this cannot be a justification for the extraordinary treatment that the Rajasahib has been subjected to. If it is—in the eyes of the powers-that-be—" what chance has an obnoxious official or individual of faring better than the Raja," it may well be asked. The Raja Sahib of Anagondi is also a British subject, his mother, Ranee Kuppamma, having been in receipt of a pension from the Government of Madras. And if this pathetic appeal to His Highness the Nizam fail to secure any redress—and I am sure it will not so fail—he will have to seek it, no doubt, at the hands of the British Government from which the veriest beggar can claim justice or the undoing of injustice.

The one thing that is being universally talked about at the present moment, is what is known as the "Diamond case." Sometimes ago an English firm offered, through a merchant, by name Mr. Jacob, to sell to His Highness the Nizam a diamond for the modest sum of 46 lakhs of rupees. And the diamond itself was sent through the merchant to the Nizam for inspection, His Highness lodging in some bank or other, 23 lakhs of rupees in the name of Mr. Jacob as security for its safe delivery back to owners in case it should not meet with His Highness's approval. It was duly inspected; but though approved of, it was not purchased, by the Nizam owing to the good counsel, if I am correctly informed, of our Resident, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick. The diamond had consequently to be returned, and the refund of the 23 lakhs of rupees demanded of Mr. Jacob. But Mr. Jacob, the successful speculator that he is, does not mean to return the 23 lakhs entire in accordance with the demand. He says that the bringing down of the diamond from England cost him 5 lakhs, and so deducting the sum from that placed in his name, he will let His Highness have 18 lakhs of rupees. His Highness does not seem to agree with the merchant—and so there is a likelihood of a case cropping up at no distant date. Several officials of His Highness's Government are said to be involved in the affair; and it is to be hoped that we shall be given an opportunity of knowing what part each of them has had assigned to him in it.

HYDERABAD, *23rd August*, 1891.

I said about three weeks ago in these columns, that it would be difficult to find a worse-managed department, in the Nizam's State, than the Public Works Department—though under the guidance and supervision of Englishmen. I shall now lay be fore you the details of a case, a case still pending so to say, which makes what I stated then as clear as day-light; and which shows that things are as bad as they could be in this Department and the sooner it is subjected to an overhauling by the Government, the better it will be. Mr. Mancherjee Bazonje, District Engineer, was transferred from Gulburga to Aurangabad about the middle of March last. And no sooner did he set foot in the Division where Mr. Marret was Divisional Engineer than his troubles began. Mr. Marret had a reputation for being the most zealous divisional officer in the Nizam's service; he would have the District Engineer work under his very nose, he would have him obtain his advice and act according to it in the most trivial matters, in fact he would have him renounce the dignity of his office and sink to the level of a subordinate out and out; and, because of this zeal, ha had in a comparatively short period brought about the "turning out of the Division" of five District Engineers, successively before Mr. Mancherjee—Messrs. Neilson, Allen, Fitzgerald Plunkett, and Walter. Such as Mr. Marret was, it was not long before he found serious reasons for being seriously displeased with Mr. Mancherjee—especially as the latter was somewhat independent and plain-spoken. In fact Mr. Mancherjee was under suspension consequent upon charges brought against him by the Divisional Engineer in less than three months. Mr. Marret had written to him about overtopping of *moram* which he, Mr. Marret, had discovered on a certain road; and Mr. Mancherjee, being informed of the non-existence of any overtopping on the road by the Supervisor directly in charge of it, had written to request him to let him know at what mile on the road he had noticed it. This turned out to be an act of insubordination. Mr. Mancherjee had issued instructions to a certain contractor named Sorabji

to carry out some works entrusted to him according to the agreement he had entered into with the Department—according to *mamool*, and Mr. Marett's own orders on one occasion. This became conduct unprofessional—so unprofessional indeed as to prove Mr. Mancherjee's unfitness for discharging the duties of a District Engineer. Then again, Mr. Mancherjee had circulated the rumour that he had been sent directly by His Excellency Sir Asmanjah Bahadur at the suggestion of Khan Bahadur Mahomed Sidik, Divisional Engineer, Eastern Division, to put Public Works matters right in Aurungabad. And this, which by the way, rests wholly on the authority of Mr. Marrett, was tantamount to an attempt to bully the Divisional Engineer. Such and similar were the charges that secured the District Engineer's suspension. A few days after the order of suspension had been sent to Mr. Mancherjee, Mr. Guantlet, Superintending Engineer went over to Aurangabad to inquire into the charges brought against him. He put up with the hospitable Mr. Marret, and after cogitating under his roof for a few days, sent off a report on the affair to the head-quarters-without, (will you believe it?) so much as hearing a word of what the defendant had to say for himself, or what the Nawab Mukhtidar Jung Bahadur who as Subedhar of the Division is in a way, the head of the Public. Works executive on the spot had to say in the matter. What the nature of the communication made by Mr. Gauntlet to Mr. Palmer, Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government in the Public works Department, is, it is not difficult to guess; but all the same, we should wait to see what the result of it will be.

The above is a plain, unvarnished statement of the treatment that Mr. Mancherjee has received; and if it does not show that the Department sadly needs a careful looking-into, and better heads than it, at present, can boast of, one might well ask: what else can?

The Prize Distribution of "the Nizam's College and Madrasa-i-Aliya" came off on Friday, the 21st instant. This event to which a great deal of importance is attached here, it.

being the only function at which His Highness the Nizam presides, was robbed of much of its interest this year by the absence of His Highness, the chief nobles of the city and the elite of Secunderabad and Bolarum. Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick took the chair; and by the side of him on the *dais* I saw Sir Asmanjah, the Nawab Ekbal-ul-Dowlah, and the Nawab Imaum Jung to whom the Nizam's elder sister had only a short time ago been betrothed. The report of the Principal, Mr. H. P. Hodson, M. A., was as usual an interesting document, satisfactory, hopeful and full of important observations and well-thought-out suggestions. "We are beginning to get, at any rate in the lower departments, the children of those who have had education, and it is interesting to observe how anxious the parents are that their sons should avoid that carelessness in early life which they themselves now regret. . . . . Not only do some of our old pupils look keenly after their sons, but they deligently beat up recruits among those less alive to the benefits of education; notable examples of the help thus given are found in Raja Murli Manohur (whose son has just matriculated at the age of 15) and Mir Hafiz Ali (Nawab Intekal Jung Bahadur), The awaking zeal has in some cases resulted in our having father and son both at school together—. . . . " After recording this pleasing fact, Mr. Hodson proceeded to submit "to the Board that the time has now come for provision to be made for '*after education,*' for there is evidently a desire for it; I mean some system of lectures, conversaziones, and evening classes by which grown-up pupils could continue to improve themselves, unbound by the hard and fast rules of a University course, for which they have not the leisure nor the inclination." He repeated the complaint he had made last year, "how early marriage or succession to family posts and duties took away promising pupils as soon as they were qualified by good grounding to begin to really learn; and suggested by way of "encouraging lads to persevere in the regular course" that the Government should consult the Board as to their character "while young nobles are still *in statu pupillari,*" and refuse "honor and

promotion to undeserving pupils." The suggestions above reproduced, I need hardly say, are worthy of a careful consideration at the hands of the authorities concerned. The Nawab Imadul-mulk Bahadur was the next to speak. Then came, the last but not the least item on the programme for the evening—Sir Dennis' speech. After entertaining us with a most edifying contrast between College life in India and that in England in his happy way, he addressed the young men around him somewhat in these words: Youngmen in Hyderabad are not availing themselves sufficiently of the educational advantages held out to them. What is to become of Hyderabad if the noblemen, and gentlemen of the place do not insist upon their sons obtaining a good, sound education? If you youngmen do not educate yourselves so as to make your State, if entrusted to you, keep pace with the advance made by other States, you must not complain if the chief offices are given away to men from the North-West."

Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's words to the Hydrabadees call for a few remarks. The Resident seems to be labouring under the impression that every possible inducement is offered to youths to make them educate themselves to a high standard. In spite of his residence here for some years he seems to be in blissful ignorance of the fact that little has been done by way of appreciating the work of those who have already gone in for higher education. Mr. Hodson reported: "Mr Cornelius took his B. A. Degree in Science, and 2 out of 3 candidates passed the B. A. at their first trial." How, I ask, has Mr. Cornelius's degree been appreciated? How have the services of the first graduate of the Nizam College, the only Hydrabadee graduate we have had in the last 5 or 6 years, one of the only three graduates this State has produced—been utilized? In no way. His chances of getting into His Highness's service seem to be as few as those of Hydrabadees who have not gone beyond their alphabets in their education. And what likelihood is there, so long as the present circumstances continue, that the 2 out of the 3 candidates who have passed the B. A. in the first Branch will fare better

when they become full-blown graduates? The Resident's allusion to the men from the North-West is not quite intelligible, if he referred to the grumble heard all over the Dominion against the monopolising of all important offices by the Hindustanees, if he meant that all the Hindustanees in service are educationally superior men to the Hyderabadees clamouring for positions, I must say that he blundered unwittingly or that he but echoed the opinions of interested parties constantly dinned into his ears. For, with the exception of the Belgramis and one or two others, the Hindustanees are ignorant of English and cannot claim to be educationally superior to their co-religionists here.

Since writing last about the 'Diamond case' I have heard that His Highness is determined to get back the whole of his 23 lakhs, and that he has engaged the services of Mr. Jardine, of the Bombay Bar, for the purpose.

HYDERABAD, *29th August 1891.*

The deliberations of the Salar Jung Debt Commission have come to a closs at last. The object of its existence has been accomplished; Mr. Gya Persad, M. A., at one time our Deputy Accountant-General has been sent out of service. And the Commission breathes its last in triumph.

I am told that the Departmental inquiry into the famous second Treasury Fraud case will terminate soon; and that it is not likely that the result of it will be any more favourable to the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung and Raja Srinivasa Rao than the report of the Commission above alluded to has been to Mr. Gya Persad. There is an impression abroad that the men in power are anxious to do away with as many as possible of those inimical in any way to their interests in the service, before the present Resident leaves, as they are afraid that Mr. Plowden may not be as non-interfering as Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick. I shall not stop to ask what reason there is for this. Sir Dennis goes away in October; and we shall not have to wait long to know the reasonableness or otherwise of the impression.

Two of the local papers have followed the "Deccan Times" into oblivion—the "Saferi Deccan" published within the Residency limits and the *Mahboob-ul-kaloof* in the Moglai jurisdiction. It is remarkable that in spite of his warm advocacy of our Home Secretary's gagging circular, *Kaloof's* career on earth has closed in about ten months.

SHANKERPALIE, *4th September.*

According to a recent order of the Government, the Nawab Vicar-ul-Mulk Bahadur, better-known as Intesar Jung, will hereafter carry on the duties of Personal Assistant to His Excellency the Minister in addition to those of Revenue Secretary.

Ekbal Ali vacates his place on the High Court Bench and acts as Joint Revenue Secretary "until further orders."

The criminal suit against Jai Rao, Mukund Rao and some others in connection with the second Treasury Frauds case, has been withdrawn by the Government. But the departmental inquiry into the charges brought against the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung Bahadur. and Raja Srinivas Rao, stands.

I have received a copy of the Resolution on the Report of the Salar Jung Debt Commission from the Home Secretary's Office. When it has been said that it is as loud in praise of "the labour, ability, intelligence and impartiality" of the Nawab Vicar-ul-Umra Bahadur, Mr. A. J. Dunlop, the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung Bahadur and Moulvi Ali Raza Khan—President and members of the Commission—as it is bitter in running down the Nawab Mokarrub Jung, Babu Gaya Persad, Jai Rao and Mukhund Rao, all that it is possible to say about the salient features of the Resolution, has been said.

The case in which His Highness the Nizam claims 23 lakhs of Rupees from Mr. Jacob, the Simla Jeweller, comes on for hearing in the Calcutta High Court in September; and that in' which the Government claims 60 lakhs from the "well-known' Hak will be heard by the Bombay High Court in November next.

HYDERABAD, 15*th October*, 1891.

The Diamond case is the subject of talk everywhere. Every man of intelligence thinks it but right that His Highness the Nizam should have consented to give evidence before a Commission, though no one could bring himself to approve of the way in which, and the flourish of trumpets with which, it was made known that he had consented to do so. There is little doubt in the minds of the people here as to where the mainfesto which has come in for much severe, but richly-deserved criticism in the Calcutta press, originated. When the real writer of it goes out of his way to eulogize Judges and other efficials who have made sorry exhibitions of themselves before all the world, he betrays the clo en foot.

How successful Sir Syed Ahmed of Aliighur has been in his mission to Hyderabad all India knows. But the secret of the success few can know outside Hyderabad. It needs to be told It is all nonsense to say that the object of the old man's visit prevailed with His Highness and a portion of his subjects, so far as to make them loosen their purse strings readily, for grander and more useful "objects" to be realized nearer home receive little real sympathy from them. The Nawab Vicarul-mulk is a friend and admirer of Sir Syed Ahmed's; this accounts for the raising of the monthly grant to the Allyghur College from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 a month. The Nawab Framroze Jung is a creature of Vicarul-mulk's; but for this Syed Ahmed would not have got 26 thousand rupees from the "people" of Warangal. These are unquestionable facts, I assure you. Sir Syed Ahmed accompanied by the Nawab Vicarul-mulk, Feteh Nawaz Jung, Imadul-mulk and others reached Warangal, by special train, on an evening. And within 24 hours of his arrival 24 bags of money, each containing Rs. 1,000 were offered to him in due 'style' by the Warangalites. How this came about it is interesting to enquire. Four Tahsildars had been told off, four days previously, to go about the town and prepare people for the giving of big donations; several officials in the surrounding

Taluqs had been ordered to collect the money from the people ; employes in almost all the offices in the station had been made to part with a fourth part of their salaries; and all the Jaghirdars etc., in the District had to subscribe a fourth of their annual incomes; and so on, and so on. Is it then a wonder that Syed Ahmed got Rs. 24,000 within 24 hours of his arrival in Warangal and about Rs. 2,000 more from the same place afterwards ? My wonder is that only Rs. 26,000 were got and not more. I am informed that the sum actually raised was larger, but in passing through many 'busy' hands it dwindled down to 26 thousands. How far this is true it is difficult to say until and unless those honorable gentlemen engaged in raising subscriptions for the laudable purpose, publish a list of donors and subscribers *pro bono publico*. Similar measures were resorted to in some offices in Hyderabad also, notably in the Accountant-General's office, for the benefit of the Allyghur College. In the Accountant-General's office five per cent. was charged on the salaries of all employes, and when a poor devil of a clerk companied he was mulcted in ten per cent. on his pay.

This was, dear Mr. Editor, how the old man of Allyghur 'got on' so famously here.

Those that live in the British Provinces cannot know how precarious a position an official occupies in the Nizam's service —and that under the present *regime*—and how easily one, however high his rung in the official ladder, may be subjected to the greatest indignities, may be suspended or dismissed or otherwise disgraced. I told in these columns some weeks ago, how Mr. Mancherji, a District Engineer in the service, had been treated by his superiors—how, simply because a Divisional Engineer, who had had his way for a number of years in every thing had found him to be too honest and straight forward to sink down to the level of a second fiddle, Mr. Mancherji had been suspended and censured by the Superintending Engineer. Mr. Mancherji has since been re-instated though not a word has been put on resord to the discredit of Mr. Marret, the Divisional

Engineer concerned. The re-inssatement, I need hardly tell you, is due *not* to a conviction on the part of the authorities of Mr. Mancherji's innocence—though there is not the slightest doubt that he is innocent—but to the fact that he is a man of influence.

Since writing this I have seen a leader on the Diamond case in this morning's issue of the "Deccan Standard" in which the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk is extolled for the way in which he acquitted himself of the very difficult task of writing a manifesto for the Nizam. It is difficult to understand wherein lies the excellence of the manifesto—whether in the laudatory phrases showered upon his Judges, or in the silly condemnation of Jacob's past conduct and the consequent proclamation of the gullibility of His Highness and those about him or in the tone of warm approval in which the Prince of Wales' condescension to appear before a Court of Justice is spoken of—for effect to be sure. I should like to ask the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk to compare his fulsome praise of Judges in the manifesto with the lashing administered by His Excellency the Minister in the resolution issued on the City Murder Case, as well as how far the approval of the Prince of Wales' conduct was time-serving and how far sincere, seeing that His Highness the Nizam thought it consistent with his dignity *only* to appear before a commission in Hyderabad and thinks it derrogatory to go to the Calcutta High Court. It would be also interesting to know whether the far-sighted Vicar calculated on the 'counter-blast' in which Jacob trumpets forth to the world. "The Nizam purchased the diamond outright. He may say anything he likes now. I have no fear of the result of the case."

HYDERABAD, *23rd October, 1891.*

All India must have by this time heard of His Highness the Nizam's having presented a house to the Nawab Vicar-ul-Mulk Bahadur. It is not easy to understand what actuated the Nizam in favouring the Nawab thus, what it was meant that the recognition should signify to the public. Is Vicar-ul-mulk the lowest paid of the Secretaries? No. If he is the "hardest-worked" it is his own fault, he has to thank himself, his mastery over Sir Asman Jah for it. Who is to blame, I ask if the Nawab meddles in the affairs of Departments other than his own, if he acts the Minister's confidant and sets himself up as his philosopher and guide—and thus increases his work? It is indicative of the influences at work in the political world here that a local scribe should think it but right that the Nawab should be paid for his all-round interference which comes often in the way of justice and equity. Has Vicar-ul-Mulk rendered any remarkably good services to the State? None that I know of. Or is the Nawab a popular official? Again I must say, 'No'. A more unpopular official Hyderabad has yet to know. In the light of these considerations it is incomprehensible what led to the present above alluded to.

Mukanda Rao, one of those condemned by His Excellency the Minister in his resolution on the report of the Salar Jung Debt Commission—applied for a copy of the report recently. And he has been informed by the authorities concerned, I am told, that the only 'fair copy' of the original, bearing the signatures, of the Commisioners was missing, that the original itself did not bear the signatures, and that consequently no copy of the report could be supplied to him. What do you think of this Mr. Editor? To condemn a man, and to tell him when he applies for copies of paper connected with his case that the set of papers containing the signatures of the authorities was missing and so on, and so no copies could be furnished him—is possible *only* in Hyderabad and that under the Mushtak Hussain regime.

Referring to the paragraph about Sir Syed Ahmad Khan of Allyghur, in my last letter, a friend told me: "This is not the first instance in which such means have been employed by the Nizam's officials. I know a Subadhar, still in the service, who indemnified himself for the money he had to give His Highness's *Choukdars* by way of *baksheesh*, by charging one per cent. and-a-half on the salaries of his subordinates. And this is on official record."

People in Hyderabad are known to be men of *large* promises. But few know outside Hyderabad, what miserable things these large promises dwindle into when it comes to keeping them, and how often they remain merely promises "for all time." Within the last few years we have heard of several *funds* started by titled "gents" for public purposes. But no one seems to know what efforts have been made to make these funds successes, and how far they have been successful. What has become of the Salar Jung Memorial Fund which many big men in the official and non official circles stood god-fathers to? What has become of the Fund started by no less a personage than the Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk Bahadur, in aid of Pundita Rambhai's *Sarada Sadhan*? What has become of Balakrishna Memorial Fund with which the names of such men as Messrs. Heenan and Crolly were associated? And when are we to have our Chadarghaut Jubilee gardens? Who can answer these questions.

OUR RETIRING RESIDENT.

HYDERABAD, 1*st November 1891.*

Now that it is known for certain that Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick vacates the office of -Resident here and leaves Hyderabad for Bombay, *en route* to England on the 12th instant, it seems advisible that I should lay before the readers of this journal a brief retrospect of the period of his "stewardship," indicating the policy he has pursued, the results it has produced, in what it differs from that of his predecessor, what changes his influence has wrought in the state of affairs of the Nizam's Kingdom, and what sort of a legacy he leaves to his successors.

There cannot be two opinions about Sir Dennis's character as an official. He is upright, conscientious, even-handed in his dealings with the meanest as well as the highest, and in short he is as good a specimen of a British Indian official as it is possible to have. Yet he has not only been of no use to Hyderabad, but a source, though innocent, of harm to the many millions of its inhabitants. Strange as this may sound, it is nevertheless a fact, a fact that any one who has noted with accuracy the events of the last three years can testify to ; and I am inclined to think it is due to the preponderance in Sir Dennis of the very qualities we would deem virtues in a man. I shall make myself clear.

It is a well-known fact that Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's immediate predecessors did not leave behind them any happy records of work done or attempted. Devoid of self-restraint and far-sightedness which alone could have provided against their stranding themselves and made it all fair sailing for them, Messrs. Cordery and Howell, both very clever men, identified themselves with some one or other of the factions that this unfortunate State is always full of, were swayed by party passions, became amenable to the mean tactics of party warfare, and suffered, as they richly deserved to suffer, discomfiture, and disappeared

amidst the crash of the bright reputations that their previous services had built up. Verily Hyderabad proved, in their cases a grave of political reputations. Such was the record that was left of the work of Sir Dennis's predecessors and that started him in the face when he took charge of the office of Resident here. He saw that 'interference' was eminently characteristic of it. And in his supreme anxiousness to fare better than his predecessors had done, to secure to his reputation a fate different from that which overtook theirs, he failed to note that it was party-spirited interference, interference at the instance of intriguing heads, that had proved their ruin—and set his heart upon pursuing a policy of perfect non-interference. This was a mistake surely. But it is not to this alone that the Hydrabadees owe the worst system of Government that they have had for a long time, the consolidation of the power of a set of aliens, the mcst self-seeking and the least interested in their well-being that they have known. For, we know that rigid non-interference acts oftentimes as a check upon erring men by the dread, born of uncertainty, it inspires—and Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick could have furnished this check with his policy but for his possessing qualities which we are accustomed to look upon as estimable in a man. Sir Dennis is social and affable, and as such he could not keep aloof from the influence of the Hyderabad officials. And it was an unlucky day for Hyderabrd, when he set aside the very salutary rule of not permitting the officials of His Highness the Nizam's Government to come in frequent contact with him, and announced his intention to be "at home" once in a week. Hyderabad officials were not the men to be slow to avail themselves of a privilege. They put in their appearance at the Residency regularly, and gave their versions of the "story" and represented measures in their light so often and so persistently that it would have been a wonder if he did not come to believe in them as he has believed in them, and become. a partizan—unconsciously to be sure—of their's as he has become And the results have been most unfortunate. The most glaring instances of oppression, wrong-doing, injustice, and mischief caused

by the powers-that-be have failed to convince him of their unworthiness. The Treasury frauds Cases, the City Murder Case, the infamous way in which men like the Rajahsahib, of Anagondi have been treated, the alliance with hireling journalists and men like the "law giver," of the Deccan, Mahomed Ali *alias* Zafar Yab Khan—whose history I told in these columns months ago—each one of these is enough to set a mark on a party in power, and yet none of them seems to have counted for anything in Sir Dennis's eyes. A spirit of blind confidence has characterised his attitude towards the officials. And this was remarkably illustrated by a Residency official when he stated at an interview which a native gentleman had with him not long since in connection with the permission applied to start a paper here—"you will not get the permission for we don't want a paper of the sort." This mischief did not stop here, Mr. Editor. Having made up his mind not to interfere as Resident, Sir Dennis allowed himself to interfere in his private capacity, as a friend to His Highness the Nizam. Whenever it was necessary he advised the Nizam in behalf of the party in power—under wrong impression and with the best of intentions, as I have all along said. Just think of how the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk came to be retained in office in spite of his resignation. The Nawab's friends and admirers made his retirement out to be such a public calamity, that the Resident forthwith sought an interview with the Nizam and as a friend asked him whether it was true he was going to get rid of such a "useful" official. And His Highness more polite than strong minded said, "no"—and had to keep the Nawab to show that he was 'a man of his word, and punctiously so.'

Sir Dennis knew all along that Mushtak Husain held more power in his hands than it was good for the State he should hold—for though only Revenue Sectetary in name he used to see the Resident frequently as "confidential agent" to Sir Asmanjah. A word of disapproval of his, of course as a friend could have at any time established "balance of power" in the

State. But that word was not forthcoming. Probably he thought it would tantamount to interfering in his official capacity in this case.

What has been the consequence of all this blundering on the part of the Resident? A few Hindustanees have obtained power for evil; most of the Departments in the State have become reserve fields for favourites to thrive in; the Hydrabadees are in a worse plight than ever they wero.

I hope I have made myself clear to my readers.

The path of duty is clear before Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's successor. And it is to be hoped that he will not allow his admiration for Sir Dennis—aud, I am told, he is a very great admirer of his—to blind him to the mistakes his very goodness led him into and will act for the benefit of this suffering State.

Pointing out mistakes does not seem, at first sight, to furnish a fitting farewell to a man like Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, who has many claims to respect and admiration. But it must be remembered that in this world no character, whether public or private can be perfection. And if we mark away the blemishes we can better appreciate the "good points."

Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick goes away with an unbeclouded reputation leaving behind him many friends and admirers—though few who can say that his services have been as good here as elsewhere.

HYDERABAD, *5th November 1891.*

The "Pioneer's" estimate of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's services here is amusing, though clever, reading. Indicating both sides of the question he makes his meaning clear enough—and that is, that Sir Dennis has not been a "success." If he defined correctly the duty of a Resident before the Imperial Diamond Commission, I can almost fancy the Allahabad Oracle saying, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick must be considered one of the best Residents Hyderabad has had; but if public opinion is any criterion of his work he is a big failure. This is dealing out even-handed justice in sooth—and we are left to choose between what Sir Dennis thinks of his official conduct here, and what the public think of it. Hitherto there was an impression that Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's policy—and that is difficult to understand—was shaped by orders from higher quarters—that is that he was giving the "culprit" a long rope to hang himself by acceding to the wishes of the Supreme Government. But that impression has been removed by the "Pioneer's" article.

The statement that Sir Dennis read at the 'Imperial' Diamond inquiry is one of the most egotistical documents that have ever been penned by British Indian officials. It makes one smile to see how calmly and coolly he makes his definition of a Resident's duties chime in with what he has himself done here as Resident; and one cannot help starting when he blows his own trumpet in the the rather comic style in which he does it in his paper. Good has invariably resulted from my advice whenever I chose to give it, the Resident composedly tells us and the Nizam's officials themselves will admit this. He, the astute lawyer that he is does not mention who profited by the good that invariably resulted from his advice, unless he meant it to be understood that the witnesses he cites and those that benefited by the results of his advice were the same—the officials . There is not the slightest doubt that the officials will admit all that he has said in praise of himself or they will lay themselves open to a charge of ingratitude of a very bad type—

a crime which they have not as yet felt called upon to commit. But, did Sir Dennis give himself time to find out whether the testimony of such interested parties as the Nizam's officials could count for anything in the eyes of a sane man ?

His Excellency Sir Asmanjah has issued in the Home Department a resolution on Col. Ludlow's report on the inquiry into the Salar Jung Bribery Case, I alluded to in these columns more than four months ago. It keeps up the mark of its "predecessors" some of which I have the pleasure of noticing in my letters. The valuable services of the gentleman who conducted the inquiry are duly recognised; the official charged with accepting bribes from one of the Begums of the Salar Jung family is honorably acquitted ; and those who gave evidence against the official are condignly punished. Seeing that rumours that had been afloat in the city for some time about two of the Begums of the Salar Jung family offering bribes to a certain official and that found expression in a paragraph in a June issue of the "Deccan Times" affected the reputation of no less a personage than the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung, a very careful enquiry into the matter was ordered: that is what the Resolution gives us to understand to begin with. Then the document goes on to give us an idea of the manner in which Colonel Ludlow set to work to find out the truth—never making so much as a passing allusion to the fact that the Nawab Akber Jung was associated with Colonel Ludlow in the earlier stages of the enquiry, and he had subsequently, for some unknown reason, to sever his connection and leave the inquiry solely in the hands of the Colonel who could never be so useful as himself—and tells what tremendous succsess crowned his efforts, where he located malice and intrigue, what satisfaction the results of the inquiry have given His Highness the Nizam and how those who deserved punishment have been punished. The Resolution is, on the whole, a remarkable document—the ring of jubiliation it has about it is as remarkable as the punishments awarded to Maulvi Syed Abu Torab for interfering in the interests of his niece,

Lady Salar Jung II, and Mrs. Barrillau, governess to the daughter of the late Nawab Muneerul Mulk, for doing what she thought was her duty, The one is dismissed from the service; and the other is forbidden to enter the Salar Jung palace, or hold any sort of communication with the members of the family for six months. Verily troubles are the portion of the "dutiful."

The original of the report of the Salar Jung Debt Commission which was said to be missing when Mukund Rao as well as Jaya Rao applied for a copy of it—seems to have since been *found*, I am told that Mr. Gaya Prasad has been furnished with a copy of the report by the Home Secretary. If this is true, what objection could there be to furnishing Messrs. Jaya Rao and Mukund Rao with copies of the same.

About six months ago a lady named Mrs. Giaccino appealed to Sir Asmanjah for permission to float a lottery. In reply she was informed by His Excelleny's Private Secretary Mr. Furdonji, that no permission was necessary for the purpose. As there was nothing in this to prevent her from carrying out her wishes, Mrs. Giaccino set the lottery afloat—and has since sold, I am informed, about 1,500 tickets. In doing this, Mrs. Giaccino does not seem to have done anything wrong. But our Home Secretary, the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung, is not of the same opinion. He has issued an order to the lady to stop the lottery. The reasons, of course, are not forthcoming. The suddenness of this order is most astonishing. If Mr. Furdonji was wrong in saying that no permission was necessary, the Nawab Mehdi Hussain could have written to say so and stopped the lottery long before this, and thus provided against the loss Mrs. Giaccino would sustain now. Surely the fact of the lottery having been floated was not kept a secret. It was advertised for a month nearly in the columns of the "Deccan Standard," the Government organ; and, if I am rightly informed Mrs. Medhi Hussain was among the first to buy some tickets. Why this sleeping over the fact for about six months and waking to it

suddenly? It is enough to alarm any citizen—and to make one think that safety of property is not assured by the Mustak Hussain Government. Mrs. Giaccino has spent a lot of money over advertising and other things in connection with the lottery; and I hear, that she has engaged Mr. Battenburgh to sue the Nizam's Government for damages to the extent of Rs. 4,000.

HYDERABAD, 14*th November* 1891.

After experiencing the hospitalities of His Highness the Nizam and Sir Asmanjah at the entertainments given by them in his honor, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick left Hyderabad the day before yesterday morning. He, no doubt, carried away with him many lively recollections of convival gatherings at which he had been treated to an exuberance of oriental civility, and enthusiastic display of high regard by the sleek officialdom ; but how few were the occasions on which he tried to do his duty by the people of the land, to secure good Government here which means the well-being of the State ? The more one thinks of the many opportunities Sir Dennis had of helping to put the administration on a setisfactory footing, to provide against the oppression and the nepotism of upstarts, alien officials,—of the means he possessed in his abilities and keensightedness born of arduous service in the past, whereby he could have cleansed the 'Augean stable' here, one is inclined to believe either that there is an irony of fate under which even the best-intentioned become not only useless but positively harmful to the suffering masses, or that the Hyderabad political atmosphere is such that even the best hearts and powerful minds are perverted by its influence. What is worse than anything done by his predecessors, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's policy has brought the least capable men into prominence and invested the most unscrupulous with almost unlimited power. This is an unquestionable fact—a fact which anybody with an open mind can see at a glance or testify to. Ask honest, independent men like the Nawab Abdul Lateef Khan of Bengal and Mr. Nelson, the retired civilian of Madras, what they think of the present administration ; and they will tell you what I have all along told in these columns, in my own feeble way, that it is the greatest curse that Hyderabad has known for a very long time. Yet this was the administration that the wise Sir Dennis gave his support to, cordially and unstintingly.

It is a far cry from Bombay to Allahabad that the dissapprobation of the Resident's official conduct is restricted to the

opposition here. If the opposition includes the children of the soil, there is reason for this cry. But if by it is meant the party out of power, "the outs" as the "Bombay Gazette" styles it, nothing could be a greater travesty of truth than it is. "How long are we to put up with this injustice and *zoolum*?" said a Muhamedan gentleman the other day. And when I told him that the authors of so much mischief must sooner or later sink weighted down by their sins, he said, "It seems as if that day will never come." The feeling herein portrayed is the feeling of almost every Hyderabadee and of most of those interested in his welfare.

The "Bombay Gazette" in a long leader devoted to the review of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's work in his issue of the 11th Instant, says that as Resident his duty lay in supporting Sir Asmanjah and that duty he discharged remarkably well. This definition of the Resident's duty "beats" Sir Dennis's—and it smacks of the counsel for the defendant and not the fair critic. Did the Editor of the "Gazette" give himself time to think what supporting Sir Asmanjah really meant? Did he remember that the Minister was but a puppet that danced at the pulling of the wires by a set of aliens with an eye to their profit?

Last Monday was His Highness the Nizam's birthday; and it differred from its predecessors, in that attempts were made thereon by some to show that the people fully approved of the trust reposed in the present Ministry by His Highness. What a miserable success these attempts proved to be, any one who cared to take a stroll through the streets of the city last Monday night, could tell. The enthusiasm that expressed itself in the lighting of houses did not extend beyond a few officials, some Hindu noblemen who are more timid than straight forward, and a few of the inhabitants living in dread of the influence of some of the Municipal authorities. And instead of a blaze of light all round, a few well-lit houses met one's view occasionally—and this but tended to bring into bold relief the

massive darkness, due in sooth to the extreme disfavour with which the people look upon the administration, that hung over the city. The most remarkable thing in connection with this forced demonstration of popular approval, was that Sir Asmanjah's palace did not show more than the usual number of lights. This is to be ascribed to oversight and not to waut of feeling, to be sure !

There is a wide spread rumour that Abdul Hak who has been here for some time has "made up", has got round the officials, and consequently. the Government will not press their claims against him. And the statement in the Government organ that the Government is likely to agree to a compromise, lends colour to it. This means, after spending a lot of money wrung from the poor ryots, overdrawing up the plaint and filing the suit, the Government me ns to abandon the case against Hak, because the "offender" has made himself agreeable to the powerfuls—that prosecutions are set on foot not so much in the interests of the State as to humble "Shareer lòk" or to satisfy the official whims. When are we to hear the last of this sad state of things ?

When is the departmental case againt the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung, Rajah Sreenevas Rao, Sriram Pundit and others to be decided ? Is it not hard, not to say unjust, that while the Nawab and the Raja, the really responsible men, are in receipt of their salaries, poor subordinates like Sriram Pundit and others should be under suspension and made to hang on 'starving' for an indefinite period ?

HYDERABAD, 22*nd November*, 1891.

Information reaches us from Calcutta that Mr. Garth, Barrrister-at-Law, appeared in behalf of Jacob, before Mr. Justice Wilson, on the 18th instant and applied for summonses being served on Mr. Abid, His Highness the Nizam's Chamberlian, and Sir Asmanjah, requiring the former to produce certain papers and the latter to attend as a witness for the defence when the Diamond case comes on for hearing on the 30th instant, and that his Lordship granted the issue of summons to Abid as he had placed himself under the court's jurisdiction, and refused it in the case of Sir Asmanjah on the score of his being a subject of, and resident in a Native State. The refusal of permission for the serving of summons on Sir Asmanjah, on the part of Mr. Justice Wilson, is very unfortunate for Hyderabad, for the Prime-Minister's evidence might—incidentally—throw a flood of light on the secret forces working behind that clumsy blind—the Hyderabad Government. But as His Highness the Nizam has declared, in his now famous manifesto, his willingness to give the defendant the "fullest opportunities" of "defending himself," it is to be hoped that he will prevail upon his Minister to place himself under the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Court, as Abid has done, only to see how far what he knows about the affair can be in Jacob's favour.

I have heard in connection with the "Diamond Case" something which shows how much one in the position of the Nizam, surrounded as he is by the solid phalanx of a clique bent on self-aggrandisement, may be imposed upon. As this comes to me from a very reliable quarter, a quarter from which I have hitherto heard nothing that turned out unfounded, I should like to mention it for the edification of the readers of the "Hindu." Though it is an open secret that but for the influence of the party in power we should never have heard of the prosecution against Jacob, it is not known beyond a very limited circle that the object the party had in bringing about the prosecution was

the "smashing up" of Jacob, as a political character in Hyderabad, and Abid. Jacob had easy access to the Nizam, and was getting to be more and more influential with him, and it was thought, with good reason no doubt, that he would in course of time rise to be powerful enough to endanger those in authority; and Abid was a political eel and could not be relied upon. In these circumstances it was but natural that the powerful party should seek to nullify Jacob's influence as well as Abid's. The first step by way of accomplishing the object, was easy enough to take, since there was only His Highness to deal with. But as the actual accomplishment of the object depends upon a trial in a British Court, the powers-that-be are low-spirited, but would seem to be prepared to meet any contingency. Even if the object be not realized—and there is many a slip between the cup add the lip, you know—and in spite of the blow that will cause to the reputation and dignity of His Highness the Nizam, it seems to be almost certain that they will hold their "position" secure—as the following conversation between one of the most influential of those in power and a friend shows :—

"What will you do if the case go against His Highness ? Asked the friend.

"We have a plan cut and dried, which will provide against any harm to us in that case," answered the official.

"What is it ?"

"It is this. We shall tell His Highness that the prosecution was set on foot not so much to get Jacob punished as to put it beyond a shadow of doubt, that His Highness has nothing whatever to do with the Russians. And His Highness, with the confidence he has in us, will surely believe us."

"Whoever thought that His Highness had anything to do wit the Russians ? And how could this prosecution establish he had nothing to do ?

"Abid, who is a trusted servant of His Highness's, went to Persia, you know. And it might have been thought by the Government of India, that he went there to confer with the Russians in behalf of His Highness, and the 40 lakhs, the price of the Diamond, was only an instalment of the sum promised them."

This conversation tells the absurd story that is to vindicate the action of men in authority and keep them secure from harm. And it needs no comment at my hands.

I am told that His Excellency Sir Asmanjah wrote to Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, on the eve of his departure, begging him to recommend Vicarul-mulk and Imadul-mulk to the Government of India so that their titles might be recognised by it, and that Sir Dennis replied that it was "too late" for him to think of doing anything for them. A high Residency official writing on this matter, to the Nizam's Minister is said to have remarked—and in the remarks one hears the cutting tone of the blunt, independent First Assistant—that the fact of Mehdi Ali's title being rocognized by the British Government was no reason why the titles of the Assistant to the Minister and the Dirertor of Public Instruction should also be recognized. Quite so.

The Hyderabad Races which attract here sporting characters from all parts of India once a year, commenced on Tuesday the 17th instant, and come to a close on Tuesday, the 24th. I shall not trouble you with the event of the race days that have already come and gone for they will have appeared in the "telegram" columns of the Presidency English papers some days before this communication is in print and, besides, I am not sure that the majority of your readers who are Indians have devoloped their love for 'sports' to such an extent as to feel interested in them. But I must refer to the exhibition of feeling, because of a remark in one of my letters, by one of the nobleman whom I had before my mind's eye when I wrote the paragraph about the Nizam's birth-day—on the second of the race days, Thursday last, at the

race stand. Meeting me the nobleman deigned to ask what was the hint—he meant 'hit' no doubt—in my remark about 'some Hindu nobleman more timid than straight-forward" And on my explaining to him, as politely as I could, what was meant, he showed by his manner and words that he was very much annoyed and would "cut" me hereafter. This did not prevent me from enjoying myself on the day, nor does it cause me a regret now. But I wish to tell the nobleman what I had no time to tell on Thursday, that if he thought that because I showed up the men in power, I was a partisan, and could not notice anything objectionable in, or done by those whose cause I feel called upon to advocate, he was very much mistaken, I have ever looked at men and measures from the point of view of the people; and if any one thinks that simply because I happen to agree with him, I am for him and must flatter him, he errs. I cannot say anything more.

The passage that your London correspondent quotes from the narrative relating the experiences of an English traveller in the columns of the San Francisco Chronicle, in his last letter, has surprised us and amused us here not a title. It is one tissue of inventions from beginning to end. The description of the Nizam's person and the splendour and costliness of his dress and surroundings is all *a la* Madame Potter—and you know that she drew the long bow as much when she spoke of the Nizam as when she talked about how her "pathetic recital" had brought tears to the eyes of ignorant "princessess." A Nizam in a "robe of snow white silk" with buttons of "immense pearls set in diamonds," glistening with "hundreds of jewels" with "ropes of pearls" about his neck and arms &c.—belongs to a period in the history of Hyderabad long gone by. And to speak of such "a presence" is surely to take one back to semi-savage times in Hyderabad or "the fabulous times of the Arabian Night," and not to speak of one who moves and has his being in the Hyderabad of to-day. I do not think it can be said that "he lives for pleasure alone." Though his giving up so much time to the "Iron man"

at the Chadarghat Public Gardens last Friday evening, on the occasion of Miss Jeanette Van Tassel's balloon ascent, might lead one to think that there is much of the Epicurean in him, it is said to be nevertheless true that he has his share of the administrative burden to bear. And to talk of "the decree" of the country forbidding him a wife and his finding "a satisfactory substitute" in five hundred concubines who fill his harem is to 'wrong' the Nizam as well as to write oneself down an ignoramus.

HYDERABAD, 28*th November* 1891.

The party in power is, as a friend remarked the other day, "very wise," and the Nawab Vicarul-ul-mulk pre-eminently so among its members. His Highness the Nizam was willing, with his wonted liberality, to give away up to Rs. 30,000 H. S. for the furnishing of the house "presented" to the Nawab. But the Nawab would not consent to having, for the purpose, more than the small sum of Rs. 6,000. If he could not afford to build for himself a palatial house, he could much less think of spending over furnishing the would-be domicile of his son more than Rs. 6,000 out of His Highness' money. To one at first, this would seem a piece of self-denial on the part of Nawab Vicarul-mulk—worth recording for the benefit of such as do not think anything of wasting money so long as it comes out of other's pockets. But it is a profitable piece of self-denial—and therein is shown wisdom that calculates upon something more valuable than what the self-denial has cost him now. It will make upon the Nawab's Sovereign an impression of loyal concern—and that, you know, is certainly worth much more than the Rs. 24,000 foregone.

One cannot help smiling at the ingenuous way your contemporary of *Mail* "butters the bread" for "A fortunate official"—our Assistant to the Monster. He conjures up "the green-eyed Minister—Jealousy" to account for all that is said as well as thought against the official. Jealousy is the failing of dis-appointed aspirants to favour, and can only pervade a very narrow circle. But since the feeling against the Nawab Vicarul-mulk is widespread, more popular than cliquish, we must look for the cause of his unpopularity elsewhere The Nawab has done very excellent service as Revenue Secretary, we are told. Yes, I say but only where the interests of his party were not at stake, and the interests of the obnoxious Hindus were not concerned. And that is not saying much. The degradation of some of the oldest Hindu families in the State, the disgrace of some of the best men in the service, the pitch-forking of good-for-nothing favour-

ites into high positions, the aggrandisement of self—these are among the essential features of the work he has done as the Revenue Secretary and the Minister's "confidential adviser." The "Telingana Settlement" has been ascribed wholly to him by those who do not know of Hyderabad before his time. A settlement on a larger scale, for the whole of the Dominions, suggested itself to Sir Salar Jung I. And the Telingana Settlement was chalked out, and even in part worked out during the second Salar's time. What Vicarul-mulk did was to carry out what had been begun before his time and could not be carried out because of the untimely and unfortunate close of Salar Jung II's public career. And that does not mean that he did it all himself—does it ? Again the writer in the *Mail* tells us that the "present" of the house to the "fortunate official" was a recognition of his services to the State. Few know outside Hyderabad how the house came to be presented. The Nawab applied to the Minister for a Government house for his son and his English daughter-in-law to live in and the Minister referred him to His Highness. And hence the presentation. One needs to be biassed in sooth to regard this as a recognition on the part of the Nizam, of the services of the Nawab Vicarul-mulk. This the *Mail* had no opportunity of knowing. But it was easy for him to see that one in the position of the Nizam could not be expected to study the comforts of his servants to such an extent as to present to Vicarul-mulk everything he wanted, at the very nick of time.

A friend, returned from the Districts about three days ago, confirms the statement I made in these columns several weeks ago about the state of the roads therein. "It is all ups and down, stones and ruts all the way from Patencheru to Bedar" he said ; and this description applies to most roads in the Districts. Somebody must be hanged for this state of things to be sure · But 'who is that somebody ?' is the question that needs to be answered by the authorities concerned.

The Mahomedans seem to have entered upon the work of preaching and proselytising in right earnest. A Moslem, who

I am told is a *Reddi* convert, reading passages from the Koran and holding forth on the greatness of the Prophet to a number of people in the market place, is quite the usual, every-day sight in Chadarghat now. And generally he attracts more respectable and a larger number of people than the Christian *padree* preaching in the vicinity. Probably 'novelty' is his recommendation. Whatever may be the reason, I wish the Mahomedans who are enthusiastic in the matter of spreading the religion of their *Guru*, would show the goodness of their faith in their 'conduct,' for some of the Muhamedans who read their *Nimaz* as often as half a dozen times a day, are amongst the cruellest I have known.

HYDERABAD, *5th December, 1891.*

The ethics of His Highness the Nizam's Public Works Department would seem to be worth studying. Within a comparatively short time we have had Walter-Cornelius' case, Nalgonda defalcations, and Work-shops' embezzlement case. These are not all. There are several more of such cases that the public have not heard of, and of which they might have heard but for secret underhand influences brought into play to hush them up. The following is a typical one. Many months ago an accountant was, temporarily, put at the head of the cash department of the P. W. Examiner's Office. Short though the time he was in charge of it, it was sufficiently long for him to make away with a pretty good sum of money. So the account showed a deficit when he handed over charge to the permanent man; and he could not satisfactorily account for it. Being pressed to explain, the accountant, to get out of the difficulty for the time being, gave the Examiner to understand that the sum was in the Distsict office cash chest. The District Engineer's cash chest was examined and the accountant was questioned—but in vain. In the meantime the accountant made himself scarce at the office. The Examiner was at his wits' end, and he brought the matter to the notice of his superior, who wrote to the Police, and was about to get him apprehened. The accountant got scent of this and, very wisely, wrote to the Examiner that as his wife was very ill he could not attend office, but that he would do so the next day and settle the matter of the deficit. He turned up at the office accordingly and paid down the amount of the deficit to the Examiner. Curiously enough the Examiner and his superior were satisfied, and they let the man remain in service. The ethics of this proceeding it is extremely difficult to understand. Any one else, in the circumstances, would have thought it right to inquire into the case minutely and decide it on its merits.

The official feeling against Mr. George Palmer, Secretary to the Government, in the Public Works Department, which

seemed to threaten to sweep him off the service at one time, has evidently blown over. He has had an increase of Rs. 300 to his salary recently. And the fact of his building a house for himself shows that he, at least, does not apprehend any "disaster" in the near future.

I hear that the appointment of Mr. Gallagher of the "Deccan Standard" as the Superintendent of the Nizam's Government Central Press, has been approved by the Government of India.

A gentleman connected with the Simla Metereological Observatory was recently here to open some observatories in the Districts. He was to have gone to Mysore from here, for the same purpose; but being informed that the Mysore Government proposed to send the Principal of the Bangalore Central Callege to Calcutta or Simla to learn taking metereological observations that he might, on his return, start and work observatories in Mysore, he had to give up going there. This proposal on the part of the Mysore Government speaks volumes for it, and shows the difference between a really beneficient Government and such as does duty in Hyderabad. A lot of money is no doubt spent year after year over young men sent all the way to England for receiving some sort of educational training. But to what purpose? Most of them cannot be of use to the State. And even if any of them can be absorbed into the service advantageously, and are taken into the service, they are generally made to put their hands to something that they are not trained for, and can do but indifferently; and instances might be mentioned in illustration of this. One of the two gentlemen who received a training in the Royal School of Mines, at the expense of the Nizam's Government is our Census Commissioner now. And the other, Mr. Syed Ali Belgrami, after being Director of Public Instruction and Home Secretary successively is now Inspector-General of Mines only because he has not influence enough to be any thing better in the service.

HYDERABAD, *18th December, 1891.*

In a few days more the one English paper that Hyderabad can boast of—if it can be said to boast of such paper at all—will cease to exist; and the party in power will congratulate itself on being left there "without the necessity to defend itself" at the bar of public opinion. This does not cause regret to the people; on the other hand it is matter for congratulation to them that the journal which has been their worst enemy will before long go to the d—l, though according to the sweet will and pleasure of the men in power and only to enable them to say "we have established our honesty of purpose, so we condescend to argue no longer over the motives or results of our conduct." In truth the "Deccan Standard" has been a curse to Hyderabad since its "resurrection." It has not only had no word to say at any time in behalf of the interests of the millions, but it has always written against them and lavished sickening praises on their enemies who, mostly, form the present Ministry. It is therefore no wonder that the news of its approaching end has been received with such unalloyed delight by all classes of people here.

With the "Deccan Standard" disappears the local medium for the expression of the offensive, aggressive Hyderabad officialism and flunkyism. I have written "Local Medium" advisedly for now and then come floating down to me whispers of hush-moneys and "retainers" sent to journals outside Hyderabad, and the large number of copies subscribed for by the Government of this or that English daily. But this is not all the mischief that the people have suffered from, since they were left without an independent paper to espouse their cause. The people with grievances—and their number is a legion,—have had to keep still tongues in their heads; oppression and injustice have gone on without fear of exposure or criticism; and the unhappy results of all this the running man may read here. As the representative of the "Hindu" I have come in contact with all sorts and conditions of people in these Dominions; and the truest evidence I have had of the arbitrary

character of the present Government, the most grateful reward for the little I am doing by way of bringing light into the dark places of this administration, has been, the most illiterate and ignorant people's coming to me now and then and asking me to read and explain my letters in the "Hindu," and their expressing their gratefulness to me in their own simple way, for daring to show up "the mighty." And I know how much the want of an honest, independent journal here is felt by the people. Who will or rather who can make up his mind to supply this want in Hyderabad with Mehdi Hassan's Press memorandum in force in the Moglai limits and the Government of India's Gagging Regulations in the British?